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Palestinian Affairs

DFLP Official on U.S. 'Attractive Offers'

NC3107155091 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Damascus, July 31 (AFP)—A Palestinian official on Wednesday said Washington had made "attractive offers" to the PLO to accept a limited Palestinian participation in a future Middle East peace conference.

Dawud Talhami, also charged that Western and Arab states, namely Egypt and Saudi Arabia, were putting pressure on the Palestine Liberation Organisation to accept the U.S. terms for a peace conference.

Mr. Talhami is a senior member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), one of three key PLO groups.

"Washington has made attractive offers to the PLO, namely that Gulf states would resume financial support of the organisation" which had been suspended because of the PLO's pro-Iraqi policies during the Gulf crisis, he said.

Mr. Talhami said such offers were "officially" submitted to the PLO, which considers itself the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia have both accepted U.S. proposals for Arab-Israeli talks after Syria on July 14 endorsed a U.S. peace initiative to convene a Middle East conference co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow.

Mr. Talhami said the pressure aimed at "sidelining Palestinian presence at a peace conference." He charged that a formula proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker "provides only for participation by Palestinian figures from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip linked to a Jordanian delegation." [passage omitted]

The DFLP also Wednesday called for a halt of Palestinian negotiations with U.S. envoys including Mr. Baker until the United States continues direct talks with the PLO. An eight-page statement issued by the group said "the Palestinian people would not be interested in negotiations and the accords which result from them without the participation and acceptance of the PLO."

PLO Welcomes U.S.-USSR Conference Decision

NC3107195991 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Tunis, July 31 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation on Wednesday welcomed a U.S.-Soviet decision to work to convene a Middle East peace conference in October on the condition that the PLO takes part in the forum.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE "all the parties to the conflict should participate in the peace conference ... including a Palestinian delegation from the interior (occupied territories) and the diaspora, designated by the PLO without outside interference."

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh was restating the official view of the PLO, which considers itself the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He added that the Palestinian organisation was still waiting for a response on "international guarantees ensuring that the true aim of the peace conference will indeed be an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and self- determination for the Palestinian people."

Israel has repeatedly rejected such conditions and earlier Wednesday it said it would only attend a peace conference with Arab parties if the PLO and residents of east Jerusalem were excluded. Israel has outlawed the PLO and considers Jerusalem its capital.

PLO Working for 'Consensus' on Peace Process

JN3107121291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 91 pp 1,3

[By Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—A Palestinian consensus on the ongoing U.S.-led efforts to convene Middle East peace talks is being worked out among the various factions and parties that make up the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a senior PLO official said Tuesday.

"This is not a question of which party or group has more points or the greater muscle but a question on the future of a people," PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim said on his return from Tunis, where the PLO leadership is meeting.

"The different groups are still meeting to iron out their differences on internal and external issues, including the American peace proposal," Mr. Milhim said.

Leading members of two major PLO factions based in Damascus were quoted as saying that the PLO leadership's talks with dissident factions were not going well.

"The talks are going in a vicious circle. They have not dealt with the fundamental differences on internal and external policies," Nayif Hawatmah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], was quoted as saying by Reuters.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in Damascus was also negative about the contacts when he told Reuters that "some people in the PLO leadership are not serious about putting the Palestinian house in order."

The DFLP and the PFLP were represented in the PLO delegation to the Damascus talks last week, along with Fatah and the Palestinian groups.

Mr. Hawatmah said that in the talks the PLO delegation demanded two groups—the Fatah uprising of Abu-Musa

and the Revolutionary Communist Party—change their names before dialogue began.

PLO officials said the talks were also hampered by Muslim fundamentalist demands for 40 per cent of the seats in the Palestine National Council (PNC).

In Amman, Mr. Milhim spoke of a growing inter-Arab consensus on on-going Middle East peace proposals. Jordan and the PLO in particular, Mr. Milhim said, have a "great understanding" of each other's positions.

"Jordanian-Palestinian relations have never been so close or so good at the highest levels as now," he told the Jordan Times.

He said the outcome of the talks currently being held in Moscow between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh may make or break the success of the U.S. peace initiative.

"It will show if the new world order means imposing international legitimacy or imposing a selective legitimacy," he said.

The PLO has sent a letter to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev outlining the PLO position on the proposed talks.

Mr. Milhim would not reveal the contents of the letter, but he said that the PLO had in principle agreed to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the proposed talks, but it expected a formal invitation.

"Everyone under the face of the sun has received an invitation to these proposed talks except the Palestinians. That is rather curious," Mr. Milhim told the Jordan Times.

The main points on which Palestinian hesitation about the talks hinge, according to Mr. Milhim are:

—The Palestinians have yet to be invited;

—The intransigence on the part of Israel on the issue of Jerusalem;

—The insistence of the Israelis that Arabs from East Jerusalem may not participate in the talks as part of a Palestinian delegation;

—The absolute rejection on the part of Israel of the PLO as a negotiating partner; and

—The rejection of the Israelis of the principle of land for peace.

"If no one plans to change Israel's mind on any of these issues," Mr. Milhim said, "then the Israelis will continue to entrench their presence on the occupied territories and a real and lasting peace will be more light years away than it has ever been."

Mr. Milhim said the PLO was awaiting an invitation to the peace talks. "For the Palestinians there is no peace until they are invited to participate. Not to invite us would mean that the concerned parties do not want peace with us," Mr. Milhim said.

Agencies add: PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has apparently rejected an appeal by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to compromise on Palestinian representation in the proposed peace talks, Palestinian officials said Tuesday.

Mr. 'Arafat was said to have "spoken with contempt" about the King's appeal contained in a letter which hinted at a Saudi desire to improve relations with the PLO soured during the Gulf crisis.

The officials said the letter was the first from King Fahd to the PLO leader in several months. The King has axed financial support to the organisation.

"King Fahd told Abu-'Ammar (Mr. 'Arafat) that you have to accept that Palestinians be included in a sub-listed delegation (with Jordan) as the only way to get the peace process going," an official from the PFLP said.

He said Mr. 'Arafat revealed details of the message during a meeting in Tunis on July 15 of the PLO's Executive Committee.

Asked about Mr. 'Arafat's response, the PFLP official, who declined to be named said: "He spoke about Fahd's message with contempt. He said 'this is what we now get from the Arab brothers.'"

Another official from the DFLP said the letter was part of what he called the "carrot and stick" approach to persuade the PLO to soften its stance on the talks.

"The Saudis are indirectly telling 'Arafat that if you agree, we will open a dialogue and perhaps resume financial support," the DFLP official said.

PLO's Milhim on Palestinian Representation

JN3107082491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, has stressed that in light of the U.S. retreat from Israel's commitment to implementing international legitimacy resolutions and the continued Israeli intransigence, the conference has become no longer a peace conference but a liquidation conference. The Arab side must tell the Moscow summit that we are committed to international legitimacy, hence the importance of convening a five-sided meeting of the frontline states.

Answering a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on an Arab-Israeli meeting under U.S. supervision from which the PLO is excluded and on the PLO's position toward this, Muhammad Milhim added: I do not believe that the Arab sides would go to a peace conference without the Palestinians and without real representatives of the Palestinian people. If it so happens that the Arabs go to a conference, then the outcome of their endeavors will be

the same as that of President al-Sadat's when he went to Camp David. He noted that the Syrian side has informed the PLO that they will not attend the conference if the Palestinians are not present.

Regarding the formation of the Palestinian delegation, Muhammad Milhim—who returned from the meetings of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis—said that the delegation will be chosen by the PLO. No concessions will be made on this. It will be a Palestinian delegation that truly respresents the Palestinian people. If it is replaced by a false alternative, then there will be no genuine peace.

On forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Milhim said: There are three options: an independent delegation; a joint delegation with Jordan; or a delegation within an Arab delegation. There is no disagreement between the Arab sides and the PLO on these options, but when issues such as excluding Jerusalem, continued settlement, and no concessions on the Golan emerged, these took priority. We cannot go to a conference that excludes Jerusalem.

He revealed that the PLO sent a letter to President Bush reminding the U.S. President that the Palestinians were the first to launch the peace initiative and adhere to it and to international legitimacy.

He also declared that the U.S. Administration informed Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi that they could go to the White house but not to the peace conference. This shows that Jerusalem has been excluded and that exchanging land for peace and withdrawal are irrelevant. Hence, it becomes clear that a trap is being set for the Arab sides and that they must be careful.

Milhim announced a new upcoming tour by a Palestinian delegation to meet with Palestinian factions in Syria in any capital they choose.

Milhim said that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will convene in the next two months and stressed the constants adopted by the PNC in 1988.

PLO Becoming 'Bait' To Cover Up Settlements

LD3107204291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] A responsible source has announced the following: Statements and criticisms have increased recently, aimed at putting pressure on the PLO to become bait to cover up the settlement march. It is strange that all these announcements and criticisms pretend to forget that the current conspiracy is aimed at overlooking holy Jerusalem and what is sacrosanct in content and representation. In addition, this operation aims at liquidating the issue of the Palestinian people and their legitimate national and political rights, in contrast to what international legitimacy and resolutions have decided. We wonder—and we propose to address the question to our whole Arab and Islamic nation, to all the Muslim and Christian believers, and to all the free and honorable men in the world—can anyone forsake Jerusalem and agree to its annexation and Judaization and the continuation of Israeli control over Muslim and Christian sanctities?

All should remember that the PLO has never been against positive initiatives, or any settlement or just peace. The PLO has made initiatives in this field and submitted many peace initiatives, but it has not committed the sin and offense of abandoning the Islamic and Christian sanctities, especially in holy Jerusalem, the first qibla, and the third of the holy places, which is the point of Prophet Muhammad's ascent to the seven heavens, God's prayers and peace be upon Him, and the birthplace of Jesus, peace be upon Him.

Events prove that Israel and its protectors are those who are hindering the steps for a just peace in the region, especially their continued determination to ignore the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and freedom, and the continued encouragement of Israel by its protectors to occupy Arab and Palestinian lands, including holy Jerusalem, and its persistence in stealing land, confiscating it, and building settlements for the new Jewish immigrants in a way which contradicts all international resolutions.

PLO Under 'Pressure' Regarding Peace Process

JN0108110091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Aug 91 p 21

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] I do not believe that the PLO has experienced a situation more difficult than the one it is now experiencing. This is perhaps even more difficult than when it was besieged in Beirut in 1982. This time the objective is not only to disarm it, but to make it a false witness in the upcoming peace process.

So far we do not think this has been done, but we do not know what the coming weeks have in store for it.

Those returning to Amman from the Palestinian leadership meetings in Tunis describe the situation as that of one who is forced to drink the bitter cup! The leadership meetings included president 'Arafat; Dr. George Habash; members of the Executive Committee among whom were Abu-al-Lutuf [Faruq al-Qaddumi], Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Muhammad Milhim, Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], and Sulayman al-Najjab; and representatives of several Palestinian factions.

There are many, great, and continuous pressures by the "Soviet friends," the "general official Arab circles," and the unbearable repressive practices against the Palestinian intifadah, the terror of which is only known to the Palestinian leadership.

A Palestinian official returning from the meetings of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis has revealed to AL-RA'Y that a "letter of pressure" of a "tough nature" was

received during the Palestinian leadership meeting last Friday from the European Community. Its says:

—The U.S. peace process is proceeding, and the Palestinians must get involved in it.

—The PLO must be out of the limelight. It has absolutely no role now.

—The intifadah must be stopped when the negotiations begin.

Another letter of pressure was also received during the meeting through most probably Palestinian academics in the United States. The letter says that the Israelis have asked the United States through Baker for the following:

—The Palestinian flag must not be hoisted at the negotiations.

—The Palestinian side must not deliver a speech at the opening sessions.

—They must have an idea beforehand of the basic points of the speech of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

—The PLO's name must not be mentioned in the speech of the Jordanian delegation.

Several Palestinian officials who attended the Palestinian leadership meeting in Tunis stressed that "all" whether leftists or rightists sense how critical the stage is, and the U.S. seriousness and concern to render its peace process successful—even if only in form—as it did in Hafr al-Batin.

Most voices of the Palestinian leadership stressed the PLO's refusal to be a "false witness" as is happening now, or be reduced to the level of "garbage collector" for the municipalities of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, in Janin, Nabulus, Hebron, and Gaza.

A Palestinian official returning from Tunis said that the "settlement" is in reality nothing more than "liquidation". How can the Israelis exclude Jerusalem from the solution, in addition to the Golan and the rest of the Arab occupied territories, before holding any talks? He wondered. What is left for us? Do they want us to leave al-Shunah for them when it is ours?

More than one Palestinian official who attended the meetings asserted that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was not the issue. The issue was "why should we go to the negotiations," and what is the use?

They said: The conferees expressed their satisfaction with the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding. Throughout Jordanian-Palestinian relations, understanding never reached its present level in terms of awareness and responsibility.

Finally, as we have said, the Palestinian leadership is still in session although Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] flew to Morocco to meet with King Hassan II. Palestinian officials have gone to various places carrying several letters to the foreign ministers of Arab states on the need for coordination.

In general, the "hard-headed and the not hard-headed" in the Palestinian leadership continue to insist on full withdrawal from the Palestinian territories (including Jerusalem) and the Arab occupied territories, and on self-determination for the Palestinian people. Palestinian representation is for the PLO, and no side can represent another side.

'Ashrawi Interviewed on Meetings With Baker

TA310718Z991 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with Hannan 'Ashrawi, member of Palestinian delegation that met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem on 21 July, by Rima Ard'aji]

[Text] [Ard'aji] Why do you continue meeting with Baker? Is there any indication of a positive response by the U.S. Administration to Palestinian demands?

['Ashrawi] This is an ongoing process. One should not expect changes overnight. This is also part of the political struggle that is part of a comprehensive historical struggle. Moreover, enlightenment is necessary with regard to Palestinian representation, since no one speaks in the name of the Palestinians but the Palestinians. The decision on the meeting came from the PLO abroad, and the assignment was made publicly. I believe that it is inappropriate now to engage in an argument with the PLO over this matter, to authorize ourselves to make decisions instead of the PLO, or to call it to account for making decisions. On the other hand, the PLO—under the current circumstances—needs to enter the international arena and provide the world with information. This takes place by authorizing certain individuals to carry out specific tasks while not allowing any party to dismiss the PLO or the Palestinian voice, so that the PLO will not eventually bear the responsibility for rejection.

[Ard'aji] Is there no fear that the American proposals are a new copy of Shamir's plan of 1989 and may lead to concessions?

['Ashrawi] All Palestinian parties are following the current developments. They know that there will not be any concessions. Palestinian legitimate rights were emphasized in every meeting. No one should distort the image and create confusion. Moreover, the assumption of negative possibilities is not constructive. It creates the wrong impression among the people and does not serve the Palestinian cause.

[Ard'aji] Are the other Palestinian factions briefed on the details of the meetings?

['Ashrawi] The records of the meetings belong to those who authorized us. Therefore we do not distribute copies of those records. The other parties can read them, be

informed of them, and discuss them. We are not authorized to distribute copies. Advance coordination is made with the other Palestinian parties, and after the meeting they are very clearly and explicitly informed of everything that took place at that meeting. It is difficult to go into all the details publicly, unless the PLO itself deems fit to publicize them.

[Ard'aji] Don't you believe that the U.S. Administration might try to create an alternative leadership to replace you?

['Ashrawi] No. The opposite is true. Anyone who refuses to adhere to the PLO's decisions will open the way for the creation of an alternative leadership. The people, by means of democratic institutions, must give their opinion clearly. The people should not be overlooked by the leadership but should form the basis of all decisions because the weight of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories is basic.

[Ard'aji] Does the launching of those meetings mean that they must continue?

['Ashrawi] The essence of our meetings with Baker should be understood. They are clarification meetings only. They are not negotiations, and they are not binding. The decision to continue or stop the meetings is an independent, internal Palestinian decision. The aim of a private meeting is to reinforce the PLO's status. The meetings were launched by a Palestinian decision and will end by a Palestinian decision when the PLO deems this to be appropriate.

[Ard'aji] If you face a situation where you have to choose between continuing the meetings and reinforcing national unity, which would be the better option?

['Ashrawi] National unity is the main demand and the established basis on which the leadership as well as the people act. Any attempt to create doubts about the PLO leadership's ability to make the proper decision or about its long-term intentions is a destructive, not a constructive, attempt. The PLO acts within the framework of democracy and national unity, just as any responsible leadership. Moreover, it makes its decisions on the basis of the popular stance and its assessment of the overall situation.

[Ard'aji] Large sections of the Palestinian people oppose those meetings, because they do not trust American solutions and fear a second Camp David. Nevertheless, the PLO decides on the meetings.

['Ashrawi] The fact is that the situation is very difficult, the conditions are decisive, and the phase is very critical to the Palestinian cause in general. The options are hard, but we should not thrust ourselves into an impasse by reducing our options to one, by focusing our expectations on one track, or by closing the doors on the leadership, which seeks to move within the framework of Palestinian constants and the Palestine National Council resolutions. Moreover, no solutions will be quick or final. We have to maintain steadfastness and patience. One should not create impractical expectations or await justice from America.

[Ard'aji] The U.S. Administration has presented three options regarding Palestinian representation: an Arab delegation, a Palestinian delegation from inside the territories, or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Which do you think is the preferable option, bearing in mind that the Palestinian leadership has stated that each option is more bitter than the other?

['Ashrawi] It appears from statements by PLO officials that the best option is an independent Palestinian delegation, but the doors have not been closed on the other options, especially if they are achieved within the context of required conditions. The Jordanian-Palestinian option, for example, depends on the condition that there is a long-term general political agreement based on equality and respect for each side's sovereignty.

[Ard'aji] From the American viewpoint, does a joint Arab or Jordanian-Palestinian delegation mean participation of Jerusalem Palestinians in the delegation?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian position remains that the choice of a Palestinian delegation is an independent Palestinian decision and no one has the right to dictate or veto. The American viewpoint is this: It prefers a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as a way of overcoming "the problem" of representation of Palestinians from Jerusalem and abroad.

[Ard'aji] Will the representatives of Jerusalem Palestinians residing in Jordan be the same people who will represent the current Jerusalem Palestinians?

['Ashrawi] Of course, not. That would mean eliminating the current Jerusalem Palestinians. That would signify implicit acceptance of Jerusalem's illegal annexation as imposed by Israel. We are strongly committed to the question of Jerusalem's representation by current Jerusalem Palestinians in order to reinforce the fact that East Jerusalem is Arab and occupied. This is acknowledged by the international community and legitimacy.

[Ard'aji] Although you have repeatedly said that the question of representation is an internal Palestinian decision, has Baker presented you any list of names, or has the PLO assigned you to presenting any list of names?

['Ashrawi] Absolutely not. They have not presented us anything, nor have we presented them any list.

[Ard'aji] Is there a possibility of accepting negotiations in two stages, the first one with the participation of West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians and the second with the participation of Jerusalem and diaspora Palestinians?

['Ashrawi] That depends on the overall conditions and circumstances of the negotiations, as well as on the guarantees, which should be obtained officially in writing.

[Ard'aji] What is the borderline between continuing and stopping the meetings?

['Ashrawi] The meetings are not an objective but a means. One should not stress their essence. The meetings will stop when the need for them ends, according to the PLO's decision.

[Ard'aji] But continuing the meetings might lead to elimination of the intifadah, as many Palestinians believe.

['Ashrawi] That is simplifying matters and underrating the Palestinian people's militant capability and their ability to persevere. As I have explained, the struggle is multifaceted and the meetings are part of the political struggle, which is part of the overall struggle. The primary responsibility is to embark on serious internal action to develop this struggle, reinforce the intifadah, join ranks, consolidate unity, and establish national institutions. These meetings should not be depicted as being the fundamental basis of an internal disagreement because this creates confusion among the Palestinians, gives the wrong impression, and diverts the masses' attention from other issues.

[Ard'aji] After the last meeting you stated that the Jerusalem question is a red line that cannot be crossed. What about the clarifications that you have demanded on other Palestinian constants?

['Ashrawi] The other issues are still under discussion. We have asked for clarifications and assurances from the American side about its position on the Palestinian constants, but when the question of Jerusalem is presented as a procedural issue, we decisively explain that Jerusalem is a question of "substance and content" and not procedure, and is also one of the Palestinian constants. I would like to explain once again that the talks are not negotiations that determine the fate of the process or the settlement.

[Ard'aji] In the event that contacts with the U.S. Administration are suspended, do you believe that Syria will ignore the Palestinians and conclude a direct bilateral agreement with Israel like Egypt did?

['Ashrawi] The suspension or continuation of the meetings does not necessarily mean the suspension or continuation of the peace process, but if the Palestine side refuses to participate in the peace process, there is always a possibility that one Arab country or another might conclude direct agreements. I hope, however, that this will not happen, out of a concern for pan-Arab interests, a historic responsibility, and a national commitment to the Palestinian cause. For this reason, we reiterate the important need for a unified Arab stance and for responsible coordination to avoid Arab fragmentation and the squandering of Palestinian rights, and to prevent Israel and America from achieving unilateral solutions.

Official Denies Remarks on Fahd Message to PLO

JN3107171691 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Commenting on a REUTER dispatch from Damascus on 30 July citing remarks by a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] official about a message from King Fahd to the Palestinian leadership, brother Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], member of the PLO Executive Committee and PFLP deputy secretary general, has stated that the REUTER dispatch was unfounded. He said that the quote was ill-intentioned and sought to misrepresent and hurt the PLO's credibility. He stressed that no PFLP official made the remarks REUTER cites.

Fatah Reorganizing Leadership Structure in Lebanon

NC3107133291 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 30 Jul 91 p 3

[Nazih Naquzi report from Sidon]

[Excerpts] Is the "Fatah" Movement in Lebanon undergoing a structural reorganization or are its new arrangements merely temporary, pending further local and regional developments? For that matter, has "Fatah" decided to return to clandestine military action while maintaining a public political front?

These questions have arisen in light of some tactical errors the "Fatah" leadership made during the first phase of the Lebanese Army's deployment in the Sidon area on 1 July and the subsequent fast-moving events. [passage omitted]

The "Fatah" leadership in Lebanon swiftly, and this time secretly, began reorganizing its Lebanese presence. This reorganization is being carried out under an overt civilian political cover and a covert military command. [passage omitted]

The new "Fatah" leadership in Lebanon, which has been submitted to the PLO leadership in Tunis for approval, is as follows:

Colonel 'Ala' Yunus Dawud will be head of the movement in Lebanon until he departs the country. He will be assisted by Zayd Wahbah and Mu'in Shabaytah.

The following will be area commanders: Fathi Abu-al-'Ardat (Abu- Mahir) in Sidon; Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn in Tyre; and Yunus 'Awwad in the Beirut camps.

Kamal Midhat will be in charge of media and communications affairs and Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd-al-Mu'ti (Abu-Yasir) will be in charge of reorganizing militia affairs.

Algeria

Government-Parties National Conference Continues

LD3107220991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The national conference of the government and political parties resumed its work today by continuing to discuss the country's economic and financial situation. The prime minister declared at the beginning of the second day's session that the work of the session will be extended to a third day—in other words, until tomorrow, Thursday—so as to complete the discussion and dialogue about all problems raised on the national arena. This meeting is the first of its kind to bring together all prominent figures, parties, and some societies with the government in a national conference for dialogue and consultations, with one aim: to talk about Algeria. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] In this meeting between the government and the parties, the purpose of which is to hold dialogue and consultations especially on political issues—by which we mean the legislative elections which were postponed after the bloody events our country witnessed in recent days—economic issues took most of the time. It appears to the observer of the work of this conference that the prime minister is facing a parliament. And thus the principle of meeting for dialogue and consultations with the parties to find a consensus formula to guarantee the organization of democratic and fair legislative elections was transformed into a long discussion about the causes of the economic crisis the country is experiencing.

Therefore, speeches continued this morning on this focal point, which turned out to be item one on the agenda. We believe that the so-called Hassi Messaoud affair—on how to sell a quarter of the production of Hassi Messaoud oilfields—is what pushed the present party leaders to ask for additional explanations from Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, because many had understood that the government of Ahmed Ghozali intends to sell the oil field reserves. Mr. Ghozali had to come to this issue several times to stress that the project "ims at bringing foreign companies into partnership in exploiting Algerian oil fields in order to strengthen hydrocarbon development with a view to getting out of the acute economic crisis the country is going through. [passage omitted]

As I said, the discussions continued all this morning about the government's presentation, which dealt with the economic and financial aspects and which aroused questions about the crisis and who are behind it.

According to some speakers, the causes of the crisis are embezzlement, plundering, and smuggling money out of the country. Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali intervened to reply to the leader of the Algerian People's Union, who accused all officials of embezzlement, stealing, and building palaces. Ghozali said to him: I do not blame you. Like the people, you are a victim of a political practice that made the Algerian people mistrust the rulers. These rumors are what led to the disaster. It is incumbent upon us, Mr. Ghozali said, to rely on facts and reality. Accusing all officials and civil servants and cadres of stealing is aimed at diverting attention from the real thieves. He mentioned that when he was in Brussels he bought a residence for the state of Algeria, but what was said about him was that he bought a palace for President Chadli.

Mr. Moulay, leader of the Democratic Liberal Union, proposed the p ivatization of all sectors of the nat.onal economy in order to get out of the crisis, because in his view, the socialist system is the cause of the bankruptcy of the Algerian economy.

The Algerian Party for Justice and Progress demanded the lifting of the state of siege, considering it an obstacle to dialogue. They also demanded the release of all political detainees, and proposed that all the parties taking part in the conference sign a petition to be submitted to the president of the republic asking for the release of Islamic Salvation Front leaders. [passage omitted]

The work of this meeting, Tayyeb [colleague in the studio], has only just been adjourned, and it is expected that the participants in the conference in the evening meeting, due to start at about 1500, will move to the second point on the agenda, represented in item two: consultations to consolidate the democratic march and to appraise the political situation. [passage omitted]

[Tayyeb] Yes, the principle of opposition on which the parties are based led to an active search for deviations and abuses which the experience of running the state since independence has yielded. This was based on the country's serious economic and financial situation outlined in the prime minister's opening speech.

It was known that the crisis was suffocating, but some facts the prime minister mentioned—for example, the power of importation [as heard], which does not exceed 10 days—has astonished the leaders and party representatives, and added to the threatened imbalance of payments in the national economy. This element requires urgent measures that may necessitate some concessions which some parties do not like and do not tally with their political slogans. [passage omitted]

The standard of political rhetoric on the whole was characterized by variations in absorbing the backgrounds, facts, and dimensions of the crisis. It appeared that some parties are not cut out for a qualitative political dialogue, as they sunk into enthusiastic speeches closer to demagogy than to conscious political analysis. But this did not prevent some other parties from making a special presence that contributed to raising the level of the dialogue, which makes us conclude that the work of the second day of the conference will dwarf many parties and make other parties feel that the reasons for their existence have come to an end. Only those parties having a political vision based on long

experience and struggle, not to say political and economic experience—like the parties of Ben Bella, Merbah, Nahnah, and Djaballah, in addition, of course, to the National Liberation Front. [passage omitted]

Ghozali on State of Siege, Date for Elections

LD3107201591 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali in Algiers by Philippe Lefait and Philippe Harrouard in Paris—live]

[Excerpts] [Lefait] Exclusively on Antenne-2 this evening we have Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, whom I am receiving with Philippe Harrouard. Mr Prime Minister, thank you for having accepted the invitation of Antenne-2's newsdesk. Good day, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Ghozali] Good evening. [words indistinct]

[Lefait] You are already with us live. So Mr. Prime Minister it is the first time you have spoken out so publicly since the introduction of the state of siege. [passage omitted]

[Harrouard] Will you tell us when the state of siege will be lifted?

[Ghozali] The state of siege will be lifted when the conditions causing its introduction have completely disappeared, and this is not an evasive reply—the law lays down that the maximum duration of the state of siege should be four months, which takes us up to 5 October, but we hope in view of the way things are going that we will not exhaust the maximum legal limit laid down by the Constitution.

[Harrouard] The second concrete thing which we might ask you, Mr. Prime Minister, is when will the legislative elections take place?

[Ghozali] [Words indistinct] consolidation of civil peace and citizens' security—when this result has been obtained, and I hope that it is not far off, then the state of siege will be lifted.

[Harrouard] When will the legislative elections take place? I believe the Algerians are waiting for this date. You have said it will be before the end of the year, but can you be more precise?

[Ghozali] The legislative elections will be held before the end of the year. We anticipate that they will be held around November, but as you can imagine we cannot set a precise date until the state of siege has been lifted. There is no question of speaking about a free electoral process during a state of siege. The state of siege is a legal constraint, a legal restriction on individual freedoms. It is legal, but it is nevertheless a restriction on individual freedoms, and it is quite laughable to try to talk about free elections within the framework of a state of siege. As a result, the fact that we do not yet know the precise moment when the state of siege will be lifted prevents us for the time being from putting foward a precise date regarding the elections, but we hope that these elections will be held before the end of the year. Above all we want them to be successful elections because it is a decisive stage in this new era of development on which the Algerian people have voluntarily embarked.

[Lefait] Mr. Prime Minister, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, we thank you for speaking to us. We recall that these were the first remarks by the Algerian prime minister since the introduction of the state of siege in Algeria in the beginning of June.

Egypt

Musa Cited on Peace Conference Announcement

NC3107174091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the U.S.-Soviet invitation to convene a Middle East peace conference as a major step forward and confirmation that all parties have responded positively to the U.S. initiative. Therefore, he said, all efforts must now be devoted to preparing the ground for an effective peace process.

Commenting on the invitation, Musa said that the convening of a peace conference undoubtedly provides a great opportunity to achieve a peaceful, just, durable, and balanced settlement in the Middle East that will achieve comprehensive peace and recognize the rights of all parties, especially the Palestinian people's right to self- determination as well as the right of all parties concerned to live in peace within secure borders.

Concluding, Musa said that Egypt, in this delicate phase, will intensify its efforts to bolster movement toward peace and to ensure the ultimate success of the peace process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Musa—Israeli Paper Report 'Inaccurate'

NC3107141091 Cairo MENA in English 1414 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, July 31 (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said reports published by Israel's 'JERUSALEM POST' on the Palestinian representation are inaccurate as they (the Israelis) thought that flexibility by all parties could entail the exclusion of Palestinian representation from East Jerusalem inhabitants.

He noted that Egypt's unchanged stand is represented in the fact that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Arab lands which are included in the Security Council Resolution 242. On his talks with his Israeli counterpart David Levi, Musa said these talks helped us

to expound our stand and insistence that Israel should show flexibility in dealing with the peace process. This should be in a positive form and on the basis of the Security Council Resolution 242. Negotiations should be on the execution of principles and not on the interpretation of the resolution, he remarked. [passage omitted]

Levi on Talks, Golan, Bilateral Ties

NC3107135591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi has said that Israel insists on direct negotiations in two directions: Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian.

He added that Israel is prepared to hold negotiations with the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, provided they participate as members of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Levi made these remarks during a news conference in Cairo this afternoon.

David Levi reiterated that Israel rejects the international and Egyptian interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, noting that Israel interprets this resolution in its own way. He also claimed that Israel has the right to settle the territories it occupies. He reaffirmed the Israeli position that this is intended to provide border security.

Levi refused to link the lifting of the Arab boycott against Israel with a halt to building Israeli settlements.

On a return of the Golan Heights to Syria, Levi said the Heights posed a threat to what he called Israel's security before they were occupied in 1967. He said that Israel wants to discuss the status of the Heights with Syria without preconditions.

On the peace negotiations, the Israeli foreign minister said Israel must not pay the price for peace.

Minister Levi stated that working teams involving the United States, Japan, and EC members will be created at a later stage to prepare for the regional peace conference.

Touching on Egyptian-Israeli relations, Levi said President Mubarak has not refused to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He added that it was agreed that efforts would be made to hold such a meeting.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC3107165691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi left Cairo this evening following a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Minister Levi also held talks on the current efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Levi was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Fathi al-Abrashi.

Mubarak Congratulates Bush, Gorbachev on Agreement

NC0108063391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent messages to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, congratulating them on the signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks agreement.

In his messages, President Mubarak expressed the hope that this step will be followed by others with the aim of consolidating world peace and security and reducing tension in various world spots.

'Decisive' U.S.-USSR Mideast Stand Needed

NC0108073291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 1 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "Moscow Summit and the Palestinian Issue", AL-AHRAM says: The Bush-Gorbachev summit in Moscow has initiated a new phase of detente with its success in removing the last obstacle to signing the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks agreement, following 10 years of negotiations. Moscow, the paper said, has abandoned some of its reservations and thus allowed the treaty to see light.

AL-AHRAM says that the foundations of the new international order will not be consolidated until the leadership of that order succeed in removing the hot spots in today's world. The Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper writes, is one of the simmering regional conflicts that can explode at any moment.

AL-AHRAM asserts that the commitment of Bush and Gorbachev to maintain world peace and stability will remain shaky unless they envisage a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue. AL-AHRAM notes that Israel is largely responsible for obstructing the peace process. Therefore, the Moscow summit should take a clear and decisive stand on the Israeli procrastination. The current situation is a grave one, the paper states, for Israel's insistence on blocking the peace efforts undermines the fundamentals of the peace process.

Cairo Press Views Shamir's Position, Levi's Visit

NC3107093891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0636 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 July (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Commentaries in three Cairo dailies focus on the Moscow summit and Yitzhaq Shamir's intransigence with regard to the holding of a Middle East peace conference.

Writing under the headline "A Man Against Peace," AL-AHRAM says that Shamir has become a major obstacle to peace. The paper maintains that Shamir could not rid himself from the haunting idea that the occupied Arab land belongs to Israel and that the Palestinians living there are merely inhabitants of Israel who should make no claim to a state, to land, or to self-determination. AL-AHRAM says that Shamir imagines that the Palestinian people have no right to be represented [in peace talks].

AL-AHRAM writes: To put together Shamir's "vision" about the Palestinian "issue," one should go back to his statements and plans over the past years. The emerging picture is one of ambiguity and contradictions, for it portrays a conflict between an "obsession" bordering on illusion and facts that are confirmed by events, accepted by the world community, and canonized in the form of international resolutions.

AL-AHRAM adds: If we note Shamir's resistance to returning the Golan Heights to Syria, because these overlook Israel, and his refusal to get out of Lebanon, because he considers southern Lebanon to be a security buffer, we can conclude that Shamir's obsessions apply to all Arab issues and that he himself is the major obstacle to peace.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR, under the headline "The True Price of Peace," writes that the talks of President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Musa with Israeli Defense Minister David Levi are of particular importance, regardless of their outcome, because these talks will give a strong indication of what we hope would be Israel's clear desire to turn over a new leaf in its ties with the Arab world. AL-AKHBAR says: We hope that Israel understands the merits of peaceful coexistence and the benefits it can bring to all the countries of the region, particularly to Israel, which has already lived in an atmosphere fraught with tension and enmity for almost half a century.

AL-AKHBAR says that the current phase offers Israel an unparalleled opportunity to replace its fears with a sense of security and to turn the animosity toward it, which has resulted from its policies of force, into fruitful cooperation.

AL-AKHBAR writes that building confidence must not remain a mere slogan, but should be translated into sincere and serious positions. The newspaper asserts that the major obstacle undermining all hope for a genuine and lasting confidence between Israel and the Arabs is the continued occupation of parts of Arab territories. Israel, AL-AKHBAR notes, today has an invaluable opportunity to prove its goodwill. [passage omitted]

Paper Comments on Shamir's Position

NC0108081791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 1 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, entitled "The Peace Card," AL-AHRAM writes: Shamir's government has raised the slogan of peace for peace in order to confront the principle of territory of peace, implied in UN resolutions, but this is a dangerous game. The slogan raised by Shamir's government, when translated into reality, simply means violence for violence.

AL-AHRAM says: There is always this hypothetical question: What does Israel have to gain from peace negotiations, when it actually has everything? Israel's mere participation in negotiations would mean that it is willing to give something, which is not the case. The paper notes, however, that peace is the only card Israel does not yet have.

Israel may think that its military might, its geographical expansion, the new waves of immigration, its repression of the intifadah, and its denial of Palestinian and Arab rights from a position of power may provide it with the peace and security it seeks, but it is mistaken. Peace is incompatible with occupation, and security cannot be based on force alone.

AL-AHRAM writes: The best way for establishing peace and security is the mutual recognition of rights among neighbors. One problem cannot be resolved by adding another. If violence becomes the sole means of communications, more problems will ensue, of which no one, however well-fortified, will be spared.

AL-AHRAM says: Shamir thinks he can take without giving and reject UN resolutions, international legitimacy, and the influence of the new international order. But he actually is creating an unbearable burden for his country and exposing it, now and in the future, to needless perils. In the short and long term, Shamir will make problems, not only for himself, but also for his own country and people, the paper concludes.

Attempt To Settle Jordan-PLO Differences

NC2607202591 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned from informed diplomatic sources that Egypt is currently trying to settle the differences between Jordan and the PLO on the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for the peace talks. Egypt contacted the PLO after King Husayn's envoy, Zayd Bin-Shakir, ended his visit to Cairo. The contacts led to a visit to Cairo by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee. It was the second such visit in a week.

The sources asserted that the PLO asked that the chairmanship of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should alternate between a Jordanian and a Palestinian. The PLO also emphasized that half of the delegation members should be Palestinians.

The sources said that Egypt has informed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the Arab parties refuse to

notify Israel about the names of delegation members before the actual conference begins.

Ghali Tops List of African Nominees for UN Head

NC3007145891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Excerpt] A Foreign Ministry official has stated that a six-member committee formed by the OAU summit has chosen Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs, to head a list of six African nominees for the position of UN secretary general.

The Foreign Ministry official added that the five other nominees come from Zimbabwe, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Gabon. [passage omitted]

Libyan Delegations Arrive for Meetings

NC2707180991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1606 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 July (MENA)—A Libyan delegation led by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Strategic Industries, arrived in Cairo today on a one-week visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahab is scheduled to discuss with the delegation a number of issues on industrial integration between the two countries and the possibility of establishing joint projects to meet the needs of the two countries for basic goods. [passage omitted]

'Izz-al-Din al-Hamshari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Communications, arrived in Cairo today at the head of a Libyan delegation to attend the constituent meetings of the Arab communications ministers council, which will begin at the Arab League tomorrow. The Libyan official was welcomed upon arrival by Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport.

Jum'ah al-Arbash, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Electricity, arrived in Cairo today at the head of a delegation visiting Egypt. An agreement on the electricity grid link between Egypt and Libya will be signed during this visit. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Justice, arrived in Cairo today at the head of a delegation on a visit to Egypt. Bakkar will hold talks with Justice Minister Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr, who welcomed him at the airport, on ways to increase coordination in the legislation and judiciary fields.

*Tanta Election Causes Disturbance, Arrests

91PM0382 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jul 91 p 2

[Report by Intisar al-Nimr]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—The Tanta prosecutor's office has ordered the arrest of 21 citizens charged with inciting disturbances, [unlawful] gathering, attempting to violate public security, and agitating the citizenry. This happened when they caused disturbances after the announcement of Parliamentary by-election results in Tanta Governorate's Qutur District.

A number of candidates had run for election and, after counting the votes, a tie was called between independent candidate Muhammad Abu-al-'Aynayn and National Democratic Party candidate Muhammad Kamal Ibrahim. The former candidate's supporters, expecting his victory, became angry and demolished the vote-counting committee [headquarters]. They stirred up the masses, and this led to police intervention.

The incident caused the injury of eight policemen and one police officer, as well as the demonstrators' arrests and transfer to the prosecutor's office, where the [arrest] order had been issued.

Libya

Tripoli Notes London Sentencing of Boat Captain

LD3007221991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Adrian Hopkins, captain of the Irish boat Eskund, was sentenced in London to eight years in prison with a five-year suspension for having attempted to smuggle Libyan arms to Ireland.

Morocco

Yasir 'Arafat, Delegation Arrive 31 Jul

LD3107133291 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Morocco today. [passage omitted]

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat is accompanied on this visit by Messrs. Abu Mazin, member of Fatah Central Committee and of the PLO Executive Committee; Hani al-Hasan, member of Fatah Central Committee; and Hakam Bal'awi, member of Fatah Central Committee and ambassador of the State of Palestine to Tunisia.

'Arafat on Jerusalem Issue

LD3107184791 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Statement by Yasir 'Arafat on arrival at Rabat airport on 31 July—recorded]

[Text] This visit comes within the framework of the consultations which we conduct with His Royal Highness King Hassan, not only in his capacity as king of the Kingdom of Morocco, but also as the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and as being in this Arab, Islamic, and international position which his royal highness enjoys, with his influence in all these quarters. We come to him in the name of the Palestinian people to listen to his views, to listen to his advice, and to reflect with him, especially in this march or these steps which are now accelerating with reference to so-called settlements which are intended for implementation through the peace conference which they are planning.

In this respect, we come to his royal highness the king, especially since this march, or these steps attempt to overlook the city of Jerusalem, in content, in essence, and in representation. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir expressed this by saying that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the state of Greater Israel, which contradicts the Arab summits' resolutions, the Islamic summits resolutions, and the UN resolutions. In addition, no Muslim, no Arab, and nobody with a conscience in the world would accept the judaization of the first qibla, the third of the holy places, [words indistinct] of Prophet Muhammad—God's prayers and mercy be upon him—and the birthplace of Jesus, peace be upon him; nor would they accept the attempt to annex it so that it becomes the capital of Israel. The crimes which Sharon is committing now, and these settlements which they are setting up, especially around the city of Jerusalem, betray the extent of the crime to which the holy city is subjected, and to which the rights of the Palestinian people are subjected.

We are not demanding the impossible, but we want a just peace which is based on international legality and the UN resolutions, especially since as an Arab nation, we welcomed the peace initiative which [words indistinct] last March which says: land for peace, and the implementation of UN resolutions 242 and 338, including the withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, including the city of holy Jerusalem, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, in acordance with the international resolutions.

King Hassan II Receives UAE President

LD2707044191 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, who was flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received at the royal palace at Skhiret this evening His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nahayan, the UAE president, who is paying a private visit to our country. His Highness was accompanied by his scions, their highnesses Shaykhs 'Isa, 'Ummar, and Khalid. Following tete-a-tete talks between King Hassan II and his honorable guest, the noble monarch held a dinner banquet in honor of His Highness the shaykh and his scions.

Human Rights Leader Targeted by Assassin

LD3107153991 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] A man mistaken for the president of the Moroccan Human Rights League was stabbed to death. He was a client of Maitre Kabbab [president of the Moroccan Human Rights League]. This is the second time in a month that for an unknown reason Maitre Kabbab has been targeted. On 4 July, a man armed with a knife came to his office at the Moroccan League for the Defense of Human Rights. He was not there at the time.

Sudan

Shortened al-Bashir Visit Laid to Khartoum Unrest

NC3107134791 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Jul 91 p 6

[From "The Brothers" page]

[Text] Sources in Khartoum have told us that the escalating demonstrations in various parts of the capital and other large cities forced Major General 'Umar al-Bashir to cut short his visit to the Eastern Province and return to Khartoum posthaste.

The Sudanese authorities are obsessed with the possibility of a hostile military operation. According to widespread speculation in Sudan last week, the leaders of the National Islamic Front and the ruling military council are prepared to leave Sudan as soon as subversive activity breaks out.

Iraqi Trade Minister Discusses Cooperation

JN3007194691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1808 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jul (INA)—Today Colonel Salah-al-Din Karrar, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Sudanese economic committee, received [Iraqi] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih. In a statement to the INA correspondent in Khartoum, Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih said they reviewed the dimensions of the imperialist- Zionist conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation and the aggressive U.S. policy against the Iraqi people as demonstrated by the continued unfair economic blockade. The minister also said they discussed economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and ways to improve it.

Former Prime Minister al-Mahdi Interviewed

PM3007111291 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report on interview with former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Omdurman; date not given]

[Excerpts] Khartoum—Former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has told AL-HAYAH that there is no dialogue "specifically between me and any party in the present Sudanese regime," but he pointed out that some government officials have visited him at home within the framework of normal social relations in Sudan.

Al-Mahdi, who was released in April after 21 months in detention, said that he will take no part in any of the present Sudanese Government's policies. "I have raised the slogan of reaching a peaceful national and democratic solution to the country's problems."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH at his home in Omdurman—which his grandfather, Imam Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi, used as the al-Mahdi state's capital 106 years ago—he said that he is concerned with a peaceful solution and that "there is no hope of arriving at a solution if the inclination is to establish a dialogue between the repression of the authority and the violence of resistance." He also said that "the national character of the solution means that all the parties must participate, and the democratic character of the solution means that it must realize the Sudanese people's human and democratic rights."

Regarding the charges made against his performance in government, al-Mahdi said that there were numerous problems of democracy in Sudan. "Some were caused by the unions and parties, some were caused by the civil war, some were caused by economic problems, and some were caused by the irresponsible behavior of the press." [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi added that Sudanese citizens should compare and judge the democratic system and the period that followed it. "The matter is no longer subject to theories on my part, and there is no need to engage in sophistry. We must determine the successes and failures during our three years and during the past two years."

Regarding the nature of the role played by the National Islamic Front in the present regime in the country, al-Mahdi cited three things: policies, practices, and cadres. I believe that there are now front policies, practices, and cadres in the present regime. They participate in the form of a coalition or alliance with other forces. This is a fact known to those acquainted with the government's practices and cadres.

The former Sudanese prime minister, whose elected government was toppled by the military coup led by Lieutenat General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir in June 1989, pointed out that the proof of this is that the front's policies now find room for implementation.

Regarding the participation of some former influential party figures in the present government, al-Mahdi said that these people are "free to do what they want, and they are responsible for their positions." [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Secretary of State Baker To Visit 4 Aug

LD0108083491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry issued a statement announcing that the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will pay a work and friendship visit to Tunis next Sunday [4 August]. During the visit, Baker will hold talks with Tunisian officials on bilateral relations, and international and regional issues of common concern, especially the peace process currently taking place in the Middle East region.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Saudi Envoy, Message From King

LD3107123391 London KUNA in Arabic 1305 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Jul (KUNA)—His Highness[HH] the Amir at 1230 this afternoon, received Shaykh Ibrahim al-'Anqari, adviser to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, who delivered to him a message from his brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, sovereign of sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The audience was attended by the Amir's adviser, HH Prince 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi; and the chief of the Amir's office, HH Prince Ibrahim al-Shatti.

Saudi Arabia

Three Ministers Appointed by Royal Decree

LD3107125991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Three royal decrees were issued today appointing Dr. Khalid Bin-Muhammad al-'Anqari as minister of higher education; Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Bin-'Abd-al-Salam 'Attar as minister of planning; and Dr. Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Hasan al-Shaykh as minister of municipal and rural affairs. [passage omitted]

Somali Prime Minister Thanks King for Support

LD2707003791 Riyadh SPA in English 1228 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] London, July 26, SPA—Somali prime minister, Omar Arteh Ghalib, has expressed thanks and appreciation to custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for his constant efforts to establish peace and stability in Somalia.

The Somali official said in a press statement issued here Thursday that King Fahd has welcomed and blessed the recent agreement reached by the National Reconciliation Conference of Somalia and urged the conflicting factions over there to respect the agreement and preserve the unity of the country.

Arteh urged Arab and Islamic states to provide relief assistance to the Somalis.

United Arab Emirates

Army Chief Meets Soviet Military Official

JN2807174191 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 28 (GNA)—UAE Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi met here today with the First Deputy Commander of the Soviet Armoured Corps Nikolay Gozalov, now visiting UAE.

They exchanged views on a number of military issues of mutual interest in light of the end of the Gulf crisis in addition to military cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet military official arrived here this morning on a several days visit to UAE.

Decision To Soften Iraq Sanctions Reviewed

JN2507184191 Manama WAKH in English 1507 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Quotation marks as received]

[Excerpts] Manama, July 25 (GNA)—Commenting editorially on the recent U.N. decision to soften sanctions against Iraq, the UAE [United Arab Emirates] daily 'KHALEEJ TIMES' said in part today:

The long-suffering vulnerable sections of the Iraqi population can now hope for their plight to be eased following the emergence of a softer line among U.N. Security Council members on the question of economic sanctions against Baghdad.

"The relief is not coming due to any new display of goodwill on the part of the Saddam Husayn regime, which brought the misery upon its citizens in the first place by pursuing a policy of aggression.

"The restrictions are being relaxed because of the humanitarian view taken by the world community, which has so far barred Iraq from exporting its oil.

The sale of this precious commodity is by far the only source of quick revenue which may enable Iraq to buy food, medicine and other basic necessities for its people, especially children and women who have borne the brunt of the punishment for Saddam's violation of international law.

"If the softening of sanctions results in really helping the hard-pressed people of Iraq, then it deserves everyone's support." [passage omitted]

A Bahraini daily said today that the United States willingness to consider allowing Iraq to sell oil and avert famine will enable Baghdad to finance its own humanitarian aid without burdening the international community.

In its editorial, the English-language 'GULF DAILY NEWS' said "but such a relaxation of the economic boycott, if approved by the U.N. Sanctions Committee, must be monitored carefully."

"Stringent conditions will have to be attached to ensure that food goes to the neediest sections of Iraq's populations—not the ruling Ba'th Party's elite stomachs."

"And the Security Council would also be well-advised to link this one-off concession to a commitment by Iraq not to persecute its own people—especially the thousands of Muslims hiding in the marshes."

"It is also an opportunity to use food sales as a lever to improve human rights, while shaving off a proportion to help pay for the destruction of Iraq's remaining nuclear and chemical factories," the paper added. [passage omitted]

Soviet Parliamentarian on U.S. Intentions in Iraq

JN3107172991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1543 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—A Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Yevgeniy Kugan, member of the Soyuz movement's presidency and deputy of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Baghdad today at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly.

During the visit, the Soviet delegation will acquaint itself with the destruction caused by the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and with the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the economic blockade aimed at their lives and civilization. Likewise, the delegation will be apprised of the campaign to rebuild what the aggressors destroyed.

Soviet parliamentarian Yevgeniy Kugan told INA that the world has discovered the truth about the U.S. intentions to impose hegemony on the world under the guise of flimsy slogans about justice and the new world order. He added that the Soviet Soyuz parliamentary bloc strongly opposed the aggression on Iraq from the outset because the aggression sought first and foremost to weaken Iraq and turn it into a satellite state in the full sense of the word.

The Soviet parliamentarian said that the delegation and Iraqi National Assembly officers will discuss areas of cooperation in which the ties between the two friendly countries and people can be strengthened. The delegation will also discuss ways to enhance these ties, he added.

The Soviet delegation is made up of 10 parliamentarians representing the Soyuz bloc, one of the biggest in the Supreme Soviet. The bloc has more than 700 deputies out of the 2,000 total in the Soviet parliament. The bloc has representatives in parliament from most Soviet republics.

U.S., UK Said Working To Block Oil Exports

JN3107204391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League has declared that the U.S.-British insistence on blocking any move at the UN Security Council to revoke the blockade imposed on Iraq proves the falsehood of the allegations of those claiming to be defending human rights when they are actually depriving the Iraqi people of the most basic human right, the right to live.

In a press statement in Cairo today, the permanent delegate to the Arab League explained that the U.S. Administration and the British Government are getting ready to raise obstacles to Iraq's exporting its oil to secure the basic needs of its citizens, particularly food and medicine. This comes when Iraq has repeatedly declared compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and cooperation with UN committees. He noted that all international appeals and reports, including reports by teams that visited Iraq on instructions of the UN secretary general, paint a grim picture of what is in store for the children, women, and elderly of Iraq as a result of the year-long economic embargo which has claimed the lives of thousands of people.

Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League stated that Arabs in particular and the whole world in general are called to stand by the Iraqi people to ward off the slow death imposed on them by Bush and his British ally, Major, and to reject all the attempts of the enemies of the Arab nation to starve the Iraqi people and deprive them of medicine.

Security Council, U.S. Blamed for 'Genocide'

JN0108084991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH holds the Security Council member states, especially the United States, and the silent world regimes, responsible for embarking on genocide against the people of Iraq through the continuation of the unjust economic blockade.

In its editorial, the paper underscores Iraq's sincere inclination toward peace and America's non-stop aggressive attitude. It says Iraq's cooperation with recent UN efforts concerning Iraq's nuclear capability proves that Iraq is serious and concerned about implementing the Security Council resolutions despite the grave injustice they did to its people.

Iraq's willingness for peace and security in the homeland and the entire region motivates it to cooperate sincerely and positively, says the paper. Iraq is working to defuse the tension which Washington is trying to keep at explosion point to implement the remaining chapters in the conspiracy against Iraq and its people.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Iraq's sincere and positive cooperation—not only in the field of the inspection and verification of its peaceful nuclear program but also in its calm and realistic implementation of all other Security Council resolutions—both exposes and contradicts the policy of continued aggression against Iraq and its people by the United States and its allies.

The paper says that President Bush and the U.S. Administration officials never hesitate to use every opportunity, at any time and in any place, to threaten Iraq with flagrant aggression and continued interference in its internal affairs by imposing political trusteeship on its people in an open and rude manner, unfamiliar even in the simplest regional and international relations and conflicts.

The paper says this aggressiveness, which reflects rancor against Iraq and its people in yet another link in the chain of the U.S. conspiracy, is manifest in the continuation of the unjust economic blockade.

The paper calls on the world community to lift the blockade against the Iraqi people so that they can ward off the danger threatening children, women, elderly, and the sick. It stresses that the United States and its allies are involved in a deceitful and exposed maneuver in the UN corridors to buy time to serve their malicious political objectives at the expense of the lives of tens of thousands of Iraqi children, and a similar number of sick and old men and women.

The paper points out that the Security Council is a hostage held by U.S. hegemony over the positions of the permanent member states. It notes that the report prepared by the UN secretary general's envoy has shown the immense suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the continued blockade and says: Rather than holding an extraordinary session to lift this sinful blockade immediately—even if partially—the Council was thrown by the United States into political labyrinths, futile debates, and material calculations that will end only when the Iraqi people are in a disaster, or at best on the brink of one.

Concluding, the paper stresses that if the Council is serious in its belated humanitarian attitude, it should work to lift the blockade against Iraq and its people so that it can buy its urgent humanitarian supplies and needs before a catastrophe takes place.

Red Crescent Calls on UN To Lift Embargo

JN0108094391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi Red Crescent Society [IRCS] has called on the United Nations to rapidly and effectively intervene to lift the unjust economic embargo imposed by the U.S. Administration and its allies on the Iraqi people. In a cable sent to the UN General Secretariat, the IRCS called on this international organization to play its role in preventing foreign intervention in the Iraqi internal affairs and to give the Iraqi people freedom to live in security and peace.

IAEA Chief's Remarks Termed 'Speculation'

JN0108092791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—A responsible source at the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency has characterized the latest statements by the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], as carried by news agencies, as nothing more than speculation whose validity is linked to the outcome of the current inspection team's work.

In a statement to INA today, the source said that in his press conference in New York Tuesday, the IAEA director general rushed once again to make statements and speculate without waiting for the results of the current inspection.

The source added that the previous inspection team ended its mission not because its work was over but because the time set for it by the IAEA ended. The team used to work an average of 10 hours a day. The current team, which started its work on 28 July, is working the same number of hours.

The source said Iraq is fully ready to receive any additional teams to continue the work and end the inspection if the IAEA director general believes that this team is not competent to accomplish the tasks defined in Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991—the tasks that will help the director general give a true assessment of Iraq's program, away from speculation.

Concerning the produced amounts, the source said that the Iraqi technicians provided the previous international team with the design calculations on the productivity of the separators. Through a video screening, the team also familiarized itself with the number of installed separators and the date on which each was installed. The team also scrutinized the operation records, which helps it calculate the produced amounts easily. The produced amout is about half a kilogram of 4 percent enriched uranium. The team also inspected the solutions that contain the substance.

The source added that the calculations made by an American expert, who was part of the third team, have confirmed this fact, about which the IAEA director general must have been informed.

The source added: Once again, the director general makes contradictory statements. He says, at times, that he does not see any peaceful purpose for Baghdad's enrichment program, and then contradicts this statement by saying that "he does not have full knowledge of the extent of the Iraqi nuclear program."

We believe that these contradictory and hasty technical conclusions will give those who are lying in wait for Iraq, and who want to harm or prepare for a new aggression against it, the chance to rely on them as technical evidence from a specialized party.

Hammadi on Removing 'Administrative Deficiencies'

JN3007190491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has stressed that all available potential and means must be exploited to the utmost in order to improve the economic situation, remove the effects of the aggression, and raise the living standards of Iraqi citizens. Chairing a meeting in Babil Governorate with the Babil governor, the secretary of the command of the Babil Ba'th Party branch, and the heads and members of the governorate's professional and popular departments and organizations, the prime minister stressed the importance of detecting deficiencies in [words indistinct] action. He emphasized that all administrative deficiencies must be removed. He said all sections of the society must be guided toward a better

performance and the elimination of red tape. He called for in-depth and detailed studies on the problems and obstacles facing state agencies, institutions, and the public in the reconstruction phase. He also called for appropriate solutions in accordance with the nature and requirements of the current phase to overcome the negative effects resulting from the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

The participants in the meeting discussed living conditions in the governorate and the shortcomings and obstacles state agencies and institutions are faced with in their work. They also discussed the governorate's agricultural production (?plans) and stressed the importance of establishing the pillars of scientific agriculture and achieving food security.

They also stressed that it is essential to follow closely the movement of food supplies between governorates to put an end to their scarcity and high prices. They discussed the importance of expanding municipal and health services and augmenting the role of people's councils in the daily lives of the citizenry.

Memo to UN Reports 29-30 Jul U.S. Air Activity

JN3107152591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] New York, 31 Jul (INA)—U.S. planes have again violated Iraqi airspace for surveillance and harassment purposes. The permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general today saying that overall U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace for 29-30 July totaled 21 sorties, made up of 10 two-plane formations and one single-plane sortie.

The Iraqi delegate added that the air activity centered over Mosul, al-'Amadiyah, Dahuk, Irbil, and Tall 'Afar. He went on to say that the planes flew at speeds ranging between 600 and 900 km per hour and at various altitudes.

Health Minister Comments Upon Return From Cuba

JN3107164491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1221 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id and his delegation returned here today following a visit of several days to Cuba. The minister told INA that he conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Cuban President Fidel Castro, as well as the high esteem in which his excellency the president holds the Cuban people and government for their principled and courageous support of Iraq when it was being subjected to the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. The minister noted that he met with Cuban officials and discussed ways to develop and enhance friendly bilateral ties.

Protests, Clashes Reported in al-Sulaymaniyah

NC0108085891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] According to well informed sources, when the Kurdistan Front's delegation arrived in al-Sulaymaniyah, a large crowd of the city's inhabitants demonstrated in front of the Governorate House. This was followed with street clashes between Ba'thist forces and Kurdish revolutionaries, in which one of the revolutionaries was martyred and 15 of Saddam's hateful security and intelligence men were killed.

Shortly afterward, Kurdish revolutionaries gained control of the city's streets while Saddam's security forces maintained their positions near Ba'thist offices and departments.

Demonstrators took control of the new town of Halabjah and the surrounding neighborhoods, capturing 1,200 Ba'thist troops and setting 10 tanks ablaze. Roads leading to and bordering the town were blocked as the popular forces stayed on alert to face any development.

In a related development, a Kurdish revolutionary told our radio reporter in al-Sulaymaniyah that a new bout of fighting will renew and that Saddam has not kept his pledge to end the fighting.

81 Bridges Destroyed During War Repaired

JN3107152891 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jul 31, INA—The Higher Committee of the State Engineering Effort has completed the reconstruction and repair of 81 bridges out of 124 bridges partially or totally destroyed during the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq. That has been announced by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid today and he said the committee has prepared a plan to reconstruct the bridges and roads destroyed in the aggression. He has also clarified that the Higher Committee has completed 16 roads of 849 km long and there are other 264 km-long 4 roads under construction. [sentence as received]

Cabinet Approves 1992 Budget Principles

JN3107193091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—The Council of Ministers held a regular session chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi this evening. During the session, the Council discussed the economic report and the bases and general principles to be observed when the plans and budgets for 1992 are drawn up. The Council approved the bases to be employed when the current budget and the investment plan for 1992 are prepared. The Council will complete its discussion of general objectives, policies, and detailed measures in this regard in its next session.

Shamir To Propose Jerusalem-Born Palestinian

TA0108050291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Israel this afternoon for his sixth trip to the region. Upon his arrival, he will go to the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem for a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The three senior ministers are expected to propose a compromise on the issue of Palestinian representation at the peace conference announced yesterday by U.S. President George Bush. The proposal will be that among the Jordanians in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, there will be a Palestinian born in Jerusalem. On the line is our diplomatic correspondent Jack Katzenell:

[Katzenell] Much has been written in the past few days about ways to get round the thorny issue of Palestinian representation at the regional peace conference. One proposal being considered in Jerusalem is that Israel's demands be accepted this time, while the question be left open with respect to the negotiations on the permanent settlement at the end of the autonomy period. In other words, that at the proposed regional conference in October, there would be no East Jerusalem Arab, no one from the Palestinian diaspora, and no representative of the PLO, whereas at the crucial talks in five years' time, the whole issue would have to be negotiated again. But even if Israel agrees to such a compromise, it is still not certain that Secretary Baker will leave Jerusalem tomorrow with Israeli agreement to take part in the peace conference. For that to happen, Baker will have to be able to assure Israel that the Palestinians accept the compromise, or at least that the United States is committed to it.

On the issue of the Palestinian diaspora, Israel is prepared to offer one new concession: that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will include a Palestinian resident in Jordan, born in Jerusalem. He must not be associated with the PLO, and he must be a member of the Jordanian Government establishment.

The Israeli ministers—Shamir, Levi, and Arens—are meeting this morning to finalize the position they will take this afternoon when they meet Secretary Baker. The Israeli side is hoping that the secretary will sign the proposed memorandum of understanding, allaying Israel's fears on the Palestinian representation and a number of other issues. If Shamir and his two ministers, Levi and Arens, are satisfied that Israel's conditions have been met, it is possible that the secretary of state will receive Israel's agreement today. Shamir will not necessarily wait for the approval of the cabinet. If he thinks that the conditions are satisfactory, he will not be deterred by the threats of some of the small coalition parties to withdraw from the government.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 1 August in a report by Arye Golan adds that "the idea of incorporating a Jordanian representative born in Jerusalem but residing in Jordan has been raised before, when Israeli leaders were asked who they thought could participate in the peace conference. Many Jordanians originally came from Jerusalem, sources in Jerusalem said, mentioning notables such as 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, an adviser to the king on political affairs, who was born in Jerusalem. He is not mentioned as a candidate for the delegation, but the delegate could be someone corresponding to a similar model."]

Shamir Denies 'Compromise'

TA0108084191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has denied this morning's reports that Israel is proposing a compromise on the question of Palestinian representation. The prime minister made this denial to Tehiya's Minister Yuval Ne'eman, with whom he met a short time ago.

At the end of his meeting with Shamir, Ne'eman told our correspondent Eyal Levi that Tehiya's position with regard to its intention to quit the government at the beginning of the negotiations with the Arabs has not changed.

'Main Points' of Memorandum of Understanding

TA0108071091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Aug 91 pp 1, 8

[By 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday informed the leaders of the U.S. Administration that Israel will accept the invitation to participate in a peace conference in October, subject to a memorandum of understanding between Jerusalem and Washington to be concluded in the talks with Secretary of State James Baker, who is due back in Israel this afternoon. An official government source said last night that Israel is also demanding that the Arab countries ratify the understandings pertaining to them.

The formula designed to settle the question of the representation of East Jerusalem Arabs is based on an understanding whereby in the first phase of the talks, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would be composed of representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This formula would leave the question of Jerusalem's Arabs open at the second phase of the talks, in which the permanent settlement will be discussed, and Israel and the United States would not be called upon to formulate their position now.

Many of Israel's demands have already been settled in talks between Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to the United States, and Dennis Ross, director of Policy Planning Staff. Following are the main points that Israel will ask Baker to anchor in the memorandum today:

—The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will only include representatives of the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip who reside in those areas.

—The opening session will last no longer than 24 to 36 hours. The United States will pledge to take steps against any country that tries to violate the principle of direct negotiations.

—The bilateral talks will be conducted in separate committees. Progress in each one of them will not be contingent on progress or lack of it in the deliberations of the other committees.

—The United States will ratify all the memoranda signed by previous U.S. Administrations, including Kissinger's memorandum of 1975 pledging to object to any amendments to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that are incompatible with their original purpose and not to negotiate with the PLO as long as it does not embrace those resolutions and recognize Israel's right to exist. The settlement with Syria will be based on the principle cited in President Ford's letter, whereby "any agreement concerning the Golan Heights will not affect Israel's security."

The prime minister's associates stated last night that if Baker complies with the gist of these demands, Shamir will tell him that in principle, he accepts the invitation issued by the leaders of the two superpowers, but that he must first put the issue to the cabinet for a debate and decision. The cabinet is scheduled to convene next Sunday. Hence, when he leaves Jerusalem tomorrow, Baker will presumably not be taking with him an official Israeli decision. Both Baker and Shamir will be going on leave next week. [passage omitted]

More on Memorandum

TA0108083391 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

[By Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Menahem Rahat, and Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Officials in Jerusalem estimated last night that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has a new formula that will make the convening of a peace conference possible. The formula apparently rules out the inclusion of an East Jerusalem Arab, PLO men, or Palestinians from the diaspora. "We find it hard to believe that Baker will come here and not pull some new rabbits out of his hat. He has some news for us," a political source in Jerusalem stated. [passage omitted]

The memorandum of understanding that the U.S. secretary of state is supposed to present Shamir is designed to allay Israel's fears on several key issues:

1. Israel's right to prevent the participation of representatives identified with the PLO and representatives from East Jerusalem and the Palestinian diaspora; a declaration by the Palestinian representatives that they are prepared to coexist peacefully with Israel.

2. The bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab delegations will be direct and will not be **attended** by foreign mediators.

3. The participation of representatives of the superpowers, Egypt, the EC, and a UN observer will be confined to the opening session of the conference. The reconvening of this forum will be subject to the agreement of all the sides, including Israel.

4. The UN observer will have no powers. He will be allowed to talk with the parties in the corridors only, take note of the contents of the deliberations, and report to the UN secretary general.

5. The conference will disperse after the opening session and subgroups will be set up in which Israel will conduct separate and direct negotiations with Syria, Lebanon, and the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation.

6. Two weeks later, a conference will be held with the participation of the countries of the region, including Egypt and the Gulf emirates, to discuss regional issues.

In addition, Israel is demanding that it be made absolutely clear that the negotiations are not designed to lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and that the United States does not plan to call for a return to the 1967 borders or even for cosmetic changes in those borders.

Three alternatives for settling the problem of the Palestinian representation are being mentioned:

—Making it clear to the Palestinians that they must forgo their demand on representatives from East Jerusalem, because it is not Jerusalem but autonomy that is now on the agenda; however, they will be given a promise to be incorporated in the Palestinian delegation after three years of autonomy, on the eve of the discussions about the permanent arrangement.

—The U.S. Administration will deposit a letter, signed by leading Palestinians, promising that East Jerusalem Arabs will participate in the next stage of the deliberations at the end of three years of autonomy.

—A Palestinian from East Jerusalem will be invited to the White House for a session with President Bush, who will give him assurances that the rights of East Jerusalem's Arabs will be safeguarded. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Levi Seen Inclined To Say Yes to Baker

TA3107193091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Studio talk between anchorman Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, "who has just returned from Cairo"]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Gadi, you have just returned from Cairo with Foreign Minister David Levi. Do you know what Minister Levi's initial reaction is to the invitation from Moscow?

[Sukenik] Foreign Minister Levi has a feeling, as do most people dealing with politics, that the peace train has left the station; that this might be a historic move, if there are no unexpected obstacles; and that a peace conference might lead to very significant upheavals in our region, and perhaps in the entire world. There is no doubt that the foreign minister is very optimistic prior to the conference. He aspired to it. He also believes, even if he does not say so publicly today or tomorrow, that the conference will lead to a very serious peace process.

[Ahime'ir] Beyond the foreign minister's feeling, do you believe there is a solution, or that one will be found, to settle the issue of Palestinian representation in the conference, which is the main problem at present?

[Sukenik] The situation tonight is that the prime minister's bureau and Yitzhaq Shamir himself are waiting for clarifications from Mr. Baker. At this stage there has been no affirmative Israeli reply on participating in a peace conference, but one can certainly say that the chances of hearing such an answer are very good. That is the reason for Baker's arrival. He is coming to hear Israel say yes, but before that he will have to provide several clarifications—constraints of sorts—to receive an Israeli agreement. These clarifications, for instance, will have to guarantee that East Jerusalemites do not participate in the conference at this stage. The view here is that the prime minister does not plan to compromise on that point, which is the main controversial issue. He will not agree at this stage for East Jerusalemites to participate in the peace conference.

[Ahime'ir] What about representation for the other Palestinians, not from East Jerusalem?

[Sukenik] It is presently hard to say, but tonight it seems that Mr. Shamir does not have any intention to compromise. In any case, he will say yes after encircling the issue and constraining it with agreements from Baker, guarantees that will ensure that there will be no deviations from the Israeli position, which is that the Palestinians in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will be represented only by people living in the territories and not by residents of Jerusalem.

[Ahime'ir] Is it reasonable to assume that the Israeli answer to Baker will be given only after Sunday's cabinet session, and not necessarily tomorrow night after the talks with Mr. Baker?

[Sukenik] That point is not certain at all. Baker is coming to hear the yes, even if it is only a yes in principle. The more reasonable scenario is that if he provides Israel with the guarantees it is demanding on Palestinian representation—that there are no deviations, that the government will not be surprised in the future when the conference itself takes place—he might receive a yes in principle tomorrow, or perhaps not tomorrow night, but by Friday afternoon before he probably leaves Israel. The cabinet will be asked on Sunday to approve the yes in principle and will receive a wide-ranging, and I assume excited, explanation from Yitzhaq Shamir on the likely historic significance of the expected move. It will therefore be important for the cabinet to approve it.

Spokesman on Upcoming Visit by Baker

TA3107150791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1440 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office has just confirmed that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in Israel, probably tomorrow, 'Idan Miller reports.

We just phoned the Prime Minister's Office to get their official reaction to President Bush's statement at the Moscow summit. The prime minister twice spoke with Secretary of State Baker over the phone in recent days, the Prime Minister's Office reported, adding that the talks between the two men would continue tomorrow when Baker arrives in Israel. This is the first official confirmation that Secretary of State Baker will arrive in Israel tomorrow. The two men will continue the dialogue to resolve all the outstanding questions, and especially the major problem, which is the issue of Palestinian representation at the peace conference.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office expressed the hope that more progress on the political process would soon be made. The negotiations between the United States and Israel are still not over, the ministry stressed, and all the issues would be discussed again in the meetings over the coming days. The reaction from the Prime Minister's Office did not mention the closing address given by the presidents at the Moscow summit, which stated that the peace conference would be convened in October.

To Be Given Answer 1 Aug

TA3107152891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, said that Secretary Baker, during his visit tomorrow, would be given Israel's answer on the convening of a peace conference. Baker's very arrival shows that progress has been made, Ahime'ir said. There has, however, been no change in Israel's position on the composition of the Palestinian delegation, and any decision given to Baker would still require the Cabinet's approval, Ahime'ir stressed. He said that Prime Minister Shamir and Secretary Baker held a long telephone conversation again today. He said that Israel had prior knowledge that President Bush would name October as the target date for convening the peace conference.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi told Qol Yisra'el that he does not see the sides giving in on the composition of the Palestinian delegation, and therefore the path to the peace conference is still long. He said that he trusts the

prime minister and that Mr. Shamir must obtain the Cabinet's approval for the reply to Baker.

Officials React to Conference Invitation

Arens—Pre-Conference Agreement Needed

TA3107195491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that there will be clear-cut answers only after Secretary of State Baker's meeting with the prime minister tomorrow afternoon. Arens said he shared President Bush's hope regarding the convening of a peace conference in October. Arens made it clear that Israel would insist that agreement was reached on all the issues it considered important before the conference was launched.

Return of Territory Not Negotiable

TA0108060091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Addressing a rally of Likud activists in Rishon Leziyyon last night, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said he sees no reason why the coalition partners should want to quit. He emphasized that there will be no return of territories and that this is not at all a negotiable issue.

Commenting on the signing of the START agreements in Moscow, Arens said they will not help demilitarize the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction. Arens noted that Iraq and other enemy countries are trying to develop nuclear weapons. According to him, Israel will have to increase its defense budget in order to tackle this problem and in order to learn and implement the lessons of the Gulf war.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 1 August carries a related report on Minister Arens' address to Likud activists, adding that Arens said that "today we are on the verge of taking the first step, following exhausting negotiations. The secretary of state will be arriving for his sixth visit to Israel. The left wing and Labor Party have been chanting that we should say yes to everything. Fortunately, nobody any longer gives a damn about them or listens to them. We are prepared for direct negotiations. If an agreement can be reached within this framework, that is good. If not, we made the effort that had to be made."]

Opposition Parties React

TA3107172091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The following are reactions in Israel to the Moscow summit: [passage omitted]

Minister Yuval Ne'eman, Tehiya chairman, said that the United States has chutzpah to ignore the fact that Israel has not been provided with answers to three controversial issues.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that if the government attends a peace conference, his party would support it.

The Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy welcomed the announcement by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. They called on the government to announce its acceptance immediately and not to check the Palestinian delegates with a fine-tooth comb.

In the territories a new leaflet was disseminated by the intifadah leadership. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the leaflet says it was the United States' fault that Baker's mission is aimed at forcing a defeatist solution on the Palestinians. The writers of the leaflet also attack Egypt and other Arab states for proposing to lift the Arab economic boycott in exchange for stopping settlements.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 31 July adds that the Arabs in the territories have not yet formulated a response to the Moscow announcement. "Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, who participated in the Palestinian delegation that conferred with Baker, told our correspondent Moti Amir that it set a target date by which all the sides must reach an agreement on the conditions for their participation. Nobody has spoken to us, she said, and it is still too early to say what our answer is."]

Netanyahu on Baker Visit

TA3107201691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Yoram Ronen—live]

[Ronen] Good evening, Mr. Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Ronen] James Baker is coming here tomorrow to receive Israel's answer to the initiative to convene a regional conference. In fact, Defense Minister Moshe Arens' remarks on U.S. television last Sunday make it sound like we have already said yes in principle.

[Netanyahu] We agreed to direct negotiations, and if the process leads to that, then it is precisely what Israel wants and has insisted on for many years. I assume that you and the audience noticed that the United States and the USSR did not say that the invitations have already been sent.

[Ronen] They will be sent 10 days before the conference is due to convene.

[Netanyahu] In addition, you surely noticed that Secretary Baker is coming here with clarifications—I hope with the clarifications we asked for—and this is a long time before the invitations are sent. There is a reason for that. There are many questions not linked to issues we

raised but to issues raised by the Arabs, because they condition and link the negotiations....

[Ronen, interrupting] What for instance?

[Netanyahu] For instance, the Palestinian issue.

[Ronen] So what do we want? Let us make things clear. Do we want to receive from James Baker tomorrow a list of names of the Palestinians who will participate in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, so that we are convinced that none of them are residents of East Jerusalem?

[Netanyahu] No, we have several positions on East Jerusalem and on the nonparticipation of the PLO and the Palestinian diaspora, which means the right of return and the destruction of Israel. These are issues of principle. We have reached certain understandings with the United States on those issues and on other issues linked to direct negotiations with Syria, or any other Arab state that joins.

[Ronen] If we have reached understandings, then why are we holding up the answer?

[Netanyahu] That is precisely the point. We have reached understandings on some of the issues, but not on others. I can tell you that the Israeli and U.S. Governments have decided that the understandings that have already been reached and those that will be reached prior to the process of direct negotiations will be anchored in a memorandum of understanding that will be formulated in the coming days or weeks. That memorandum will form the basis for the meeting. In other words, it will be settled and sewn up. The important loose ends will be tied up in the memorandum of understanding that Israel and the United States will sign.

[Ronen] From your remarks I understand that we aspire to reach—or there is already a U.S. agreement to sign—a memorandum of understanding that will include the issue of Palestinian representation. James Baker can leave here with an Israeli agreement in principle to participate in a regional conference, and we will sign the memorandum of understanding afterward.

[Netanyahu] I suggest that you leave the final word on agreements to the prime minister. As I said, and I will make it clearer, we agreed to direct negotiations. What does agreed mean? We demanded it for years. For 43 years we have expected Syria—the most dangerous country from Israel's point of view, with the largest army in the Middle East, a country in a state of war with us—to come to direct negotiations with us without conditions.

[Ronen] That we have received, but there is still a problem on the Palestinian issue.

[Netanyahu] I would like to clarify the process here. We were told: You are insisting on direct negotiations, but it will not happen; go to an international conference, with all that this involves. We said no, and we insisted. Syria has drawn closer to our position. We were told that if we do not give up the Golan Heights as a condition for negotiations, they will not come. They have conceded on that as well. We are now referring to the other elements of the negotiations, which are certainly complex and difficult. I do not want to mitigate the difficulties, even their dangers, but this government and prime minister know how to stand fast on their beliefs and principles. We bring together a steadfastness on principles and a readiness for direct negotiations.

[Ronen] You say that the Syrians made concessions, but we also have given up several principles on which no compromise was conceivable, such as passive participation by a UN representative, and a festive one- or two-day opening to a regional conference.

[Netanyahu] I suggest you not be so firm about some of the things you have mentioned, but it is true that we have agreed to the regional meeting, and that does not contradict what I have said. What can we compare it to? No analogy is perfect, but imagine a football or basketball game, and at the opening all kinds of notables make speeches and shake hands and then move aside and clear the court, if you like, for the Israeli and the Syrian teams, and perhaps in a completely different court there are Israeli and Jordanian teams. In other words, we insisted on the principle of direct negotiations, which is acceptable to the United States—and to our understanding also to Syria—and we will want guarantees, securities, that those understandings will be implemented during the negotiations.

[Ronen] Can you imagine a possibility in which the prime minister and the government will hand Baker a negative reply?

[Netanyahu] It is not a question of a negative reply to Baker; there is a process that we initiated.

[Ronen] That is what he wants to hear—that the answer will be positive.

[Netanyahu] You are again trying to restrict the question to yes or no, while it is clear to you that the very fact that Baker is coming here—and it is possible that he might come several times, perhaps many times—means that a great deal of work is still awaiting us. The readiness in principle to enter direct negotiations is not something new. What is new is that the Arabs who saw this government's resolve and readiness are the ones who, in fact, changed their position—I hope they did—but there are still many details that have to be worked out and that will be agreed on in the memorandum of understanding between the governments of Israel and the United States.

[Ronen] From your remarks I understand that the answer in principle to Baker will be yes, but that the work will continue on the memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States that will allow a final Israeli affirmative answer to the conference.

[Netanyahu] You insist on saying two things: First, you insist on extracting from me the word yes.

[Ronen] Is that difficult?

[Netanyahu] No. I say yes to many things, but I am trying to tell you that the main thing here is the process we are in, and the details that have to finalized. I think that first of all the negotiations must be left for the prime minister in his meeting tomorrow with Baker. Second, I believe that the use of the word conference is misleading. Secretary Baker was here. He talked to us—the prime minister, and the foreign and defense ministers. During that discussion he made it clear that it will be a formal opening ceremony of one day—if I am not mistaken, he said of one to two days—after which we move directly and immediately to direct negotiations. That is what we are aspiring to. That is the important process. If there is a chance—and it is a chance and not a certainty, for we know how negotiations start, but not whether they will achieve the results we want—if there is a chance for a major breakthrough, it is due to the fact that we will be entering direct negotiations with Syria. That is not procedure; it is substance; it is recognition.

U.S. To 'Sacrifice the Israeli Lamb'

TA3107193891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Interview with Minister Yuval Ne'eman, Tehiya party chairman, by Yoram Ronen—live]

[Text] [Ronen] We have as our guest Yuval Ne'eman, chairman of the Tehiya party, who is also the minister of energy and infrastructure, and of science and technology. Good evening.

[Ne'eman] Good evening.

[Ronen] Minister Ne'eman, President Gorbachev, whom you have met, and President Bush want to hold a regional conference with the participation of all the Middle East countries in October. You are not happy with this. What is wrong with this idea?

[Ne'eman] I am extremely worried about the fate of the State of Israel. I am worried about its security. This conference was actually promised to the Arab states by President Bush as payment for their support in the war against Iraq.

[Ronen] You are concerned about the security of Israel, but perhaps this conference will bring us peace—and peace means security.

[Ne'eman] I believe in peace that is founded on territorial facts and not in the kind of peace expressed by a document. If President al-Asad has not undergone some kind of psychiatric treatment recently, then he is the same al-Asad that murdered 20,000 Syrians when there were a few riots and an intifadah in Hamah. The Syria Army today occupies 90 percent of Lebanon. For some reason that does not worry either Gorbachev or Bush....

[Ronen, interrupting] Perhaps it does not worry Shamir either?

[Ne'eman] I do not know; I hope it worries the prime minister of Israel. At any rate this conference, and President Bush's one concern when in Moscow, is to sacrifice the Israeli lamb at the altar.

[Ronen] What would you expect? That President Bush would first approach Israel to get its answer and only afterward announce that Israel's conditions were accepted and the conference will be convened?

[Ne'eman] That is one aspect that I am leaving for whoever represents the government to address, because I think it was an insult to the Israeli Government for President Bush to set a date for the conference, even though there are still at least three questions—one of which is very difficult—that the prime minister has asked, and that are being ignored. It may very well be that the United States, as the only superpower in the world, has the arrogance to believe that everyone is so frightened of it that its every dictate will be accepted. However, as chairman of Tehiya, I am not concerned about that. As chairman of the Tehiya, I am worried about the very fact of going to the conference. We will be boxed into a corner. Let us say that al-Asad comes and says that he wants the Golan Heights and we say we do not want to give it back. Apparently there is no reason to worry, but that is when the pressure will start, and anyone who cannot withstand the pressure today will not be able to withstand it then. And therefore....

[Ronen, interrupting] From your statements, Minister Ne'eman, I understand that you will recommend to the Tehiya Central Committee when it convenes next week that if Israel gives Baker a positive answer in principle, Tehiya should immediately resign from the government.

[Ne'eman] That is the position that was decided upon by the Tehiya Secretariat. If I felt that by working inside the government I could wage my struggle more effectively, then I may have criticized that decision. Sometimes if someone is inside the government, he can influence matters. On the political issue, however, we are pretty much neutralized.

[Ronen, interrupting] So at the moment you think you have to give up?

[Ne'eman] I think that the option of leaving the government at least frees us from the shackles of being partners on the matter of this conference, and at least permits us to embark on a public campaign against those positions.

[Ronen] And then perhaps to call early elections? But that is another question. I would like to ask you a last question, Mr. Ne'eman. Do you imagine that Prime Minister Shamir will give James Baker an affirmative answer before he brings the matter before the cabinet for its formal approval on Sunday?

[Ne'eman] No, I would be quite surprised if a positive response is given, because I have not heard of any

solution to the issue of the Palestinian delegation, and I certainly expect the decision on this matter to be made in the cabinet.

[Ronen] On the other hand, there are those who believe, as we shall soon be told by our correspondent in Washington, that James Baker would not trouble himself to come to Jerusalem were he not almost 100 percent convinced that he would get a positive reply from the Israeli Government. Thank you, Tehiya Chairman Yuval Ne'eman.

Peace Moves Affect Coalition Politics

TA3107162991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1510 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Yitzhaq Golan—live]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Good evening, Transportation Minister Qatzav.

[Qatzav] Good evening.

[Golan] What is your first reaction to President Bush's statements?

[Qatzav] Of course, we desire and pray that the meeting leading to bilateral and direct talks between Israel and the Arab states will indeed convene. We hope and pray even more that those talks will prove successful. There are still several issues that remain open and unresolved, and those issues are very important to us.

[Golan] Knesset Members Ge'ula Kohen and Yuval Ne'eman, the leaders of the Tehiya faction, said it was chutzpah on the part of the United States to announce an international peace conference before Israel had given its answer.

[Qatzav] I confirm that there is no Israeli Government decision regarding the convening of the framework for negotiations. Most of the details have been concluded, but, as I told you at the start of the interview, there are still several issues that have not been agreed upon and are still being discussed. Tehiya's announcement is premature, however, because even from the agreements already concluded it is clear that there has been no halt in the establishment of settlements, as was demanded. There has been no Israeli acceptance of the principle of territories for peace, as was demanded of us. There will be no international conference, whatever Tehiya says. So we have violated none of the principles that Tehiya, and perhaps other parties in the coalition, are harping on. [passage omitted]

[Golan] In the internal arena, does the Likud fear that the government will fall apart or that Tehiya, Moledet, or Tzomet may secede from the coalition?

[Qatzav] No, like I said before, I do not think that any party has any reason to resign, because the government has stood by its principles and acted according to its basic guidelines. We have not strayed one inch so far, and we have no intention of deviating in the slightest. We shall not agree to the inclusion of Palestinian Arabs in the joint delegation if they are residents of East Jerusalem. We shall not accept PLO representatives. We shall not accept an international conference, or the principle of territories for peace. Nor shall we agree to halt the settlements. This is all very clear and known to all the parties, certainly to the United States. Therefore no one has any reason to resign.

I heard the declaration by the chairman of the Labor Party. The problem is not simply one of the Labor Party's promising to support us on the political process. A government has to act; it has to run the country on a daily basis, dealing with social, economic, and security matters. The political process is not the only thing on the agenda. The Labor Party's declaration that it supports the political process all the way does not make things easier for us, nor does it permit us to count on that initiative. If the Labor Party were to declare that it supports the government's positions and allow it to run the country's affairs in an efficient manner, it would make things easier for us. But regarding just the political issue, of course, if the parties resign, the coalition will not be stable...

[Golan, interrupting] Perhaps a national unity government?

[Qatzav] To our great regret, the national unity government was dismantled against our will and despite the fact that we virtually pleaded with the Labor Party not to do it. They decided to resign a bit over a year ago. In the meantime, there have been new developments and new conditions which, to my regret, preclude the establishment of a national unity government. It is not a realistic or practical option right now.

[Golan] Thank you, Minister Qatzav.

Right-Wing Parties Meet To Frustrate Talks

TA0108051591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Minister Yuval Ne'eman was among those present at an emergency meeting last night in Jerusalem held by the right-wing parties and the Gush Emunim settlement movement. The meeting called for a coordinated right-wing effort to frustrate the efforts to convene a peace conference.

Others in attendance included Tehiya Knesset Members [MK's] Ge'ula Kohen and Elyaqim Ha'etzni, Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi of the Moledet faction, and MK Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party. However, Minister Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet says his party still supports the government and Prime Minister Shamir. Similar backing was voiced by Likud MK Tzahi Hanegbi, among the heads of the Eretz Yisra'el Front in the Knesset.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 1 August reports that "Moledet continues to support the government. Its chairman, Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, continues to back the prime minister, even after last night's meeting with the leaders of Gush Emunim."

[Party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that in last night's meeting, "Yitzhaq Levi, secretary general of the National Religious Party, called on the prime minister not to make any decisions on his own and to consult with other coalition parties."]

Palestinians React to Announcement of Conference

TA3107201391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The announcement on the convening of the peace conference in October was given conflicting receptions in the territories, as can be expected. Faysal al-Husayni and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash said the Palestinian people should welcome the conference, but they believe the Palestinians must not sit at the negotiating table without an East Jerusalem representative and without the PLO's being invited to the conference.

Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha of Gaza said that the USSR and the United States have again shown their determination to bring about peace arrangements in the Middle East. As usual, he said, the question of how Israel will behave remains unanswered.

Samiha Khalil and Dr. Riyad Maliki, leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the territories, believe that the participation of Palestinian representatives in a conference under U.S., rather than U.N. auspices must be prevented at any price. [passage omitted]

'Formal Invitation' to PLO Demanded

TA0108060391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Aug 91 p 1

[By Dan Izenberg]

[Excerpt] Palestinians will not attend the proposed regional conference unless the PLO receives a formal invitation and is given the right to appoint the Palestinian delegation, according to Radwan Abu-'Ayyash.

Abu-'Ayyash said yesterday's call for a peace conference by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was "wise, but I hope the Palestinians will be able to get on the train. I hope the U.S. and the Soviet Union will not repeat the mistake the Americans made at Camp David by leaving the Palestinians out."

The local Palestinian leader added that if the two superpowers do not formally invite the PLO, "they are telling the Palestinians not to come."

Abu-'Ayyash accused Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of trying to "win points even before the negotiations begin" by barring East Jerusalem residents from participating. "He is trying to torpedo the negotiating efforts," Abu-'Ayyash charged, warning that if Shamir had his way, he would refuse to negotiate a host of other issues including Jewish settlements, government-expropriated land and water rights.

Abu-'Ayyash said the PLO must serve as the referent for a Palestinian delegation, just as their governments serve as referents for the other participants. "Who else will we turn to to answer our questions?" Abu-'Ayyash asked. [passage omitted]

U.S. Should Clarify Stand on Palestinian State

TA3107155591 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jul 91 p A10

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Playing Hide and Seek"]

[Text] On one of his visits to Jerusalem, U.S. Secretary of State Baker tried to give the Israelis the impression that the most important part of his mission was to get the parties to the Middle East conflict to meet face to face. He said he did not intend to get involved beyond that: "Whatever you decide between yourselves is what you will get."

This "practical approach" was probably designed to convince Israel not to insist on every small detail on the procedural issues, because the most important thing was direct negotiations. This approach, however, is not at all practical. On the contrary, it is a sure recipe for total failure, unless we clarify and agree in advance what issues will not be discussed. The problem is not entirely encapsulated in the futile debate over the principle of "territories for peace."

That principle does not appear in Security Council Resolution 242, which is the agreed upon basis for convening the peace conference and for the Camp David accords. The Israeli interpretation is well known. Resolution 242 stipulated withdrawal from territories, and "indeed," as Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir often says, "when we left the Sinai Peninsula, we withdrew from 90 percent of the territory we conquered in 1967. [no closing quotation marks as published] This interpretation is also accepted by renowned international jurists, such as Eugene Rostow, who backs Shamir's interpretation.

Let us therefore assume that Baker's mission is accomplished and the peace conference is convened. How will that help the cause of peace if on the following day, or even on the same day, it breaks up with a loud bang?

There is no point in ignoring the main issue, which is: Are we ready to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state? This is what the whole dispute is about, and **this** is what James Baker must give answers to in advance, before we sit down at the table.

Both the government and the Labor Party clearly have a negative answer for that question. Moreover, previous U.S. Administrations have supported their position. President Reagan—admittedly before his election—clearly stated: "Israel and Jordan are the two Palestinian states that were endorsed and established by the United Nations. Jordan's sovereignty today extends over 80 percent of the historical territory of Palestine."

Reagan's secretary of state, George Shultz, later came and said that "the United States could not accept self-determination," if this was a code word for an independent Palestinian state." [quotation marks as published] Of all the clarifications that should be demanded from James Baker, Shultz' successor, this is the most crucial one: Does Baker accept his predecessor's definition of "self-determination" for the Palestinians? All the argument over procedural issues, or a mute UN observer, is meaningless. We must stop playing hide and seek. If Baker says that the United States opposes giving the Palestinians self-determination if this means another independent state, there is no reason for Israel not to attend the conference, even with a "representative of East Jerusalem."

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Cairo

TA3107184291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi ended a three-day visit to Cairo and returned to Israel a short time ago. Minister Levi will report to Prime Minister Shamir tomorrow on the outcome of his talks with Egyptian government leaders.

Comment Suggests Giving Up Jazzin Conditionally

TA3107153391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Jul p 2

[Avi Bnayahu commentary]

[Text] The official Syrian daily TISHRIN this week quoted some Lebanese Army officers as saying that they are waiting for the order to enter and take over the Jazzin enclave. The Syrian correspondents, who visited Lebanese Army troops stationed at the outskirts of the enclave, received the impression that such an order would be given very soon.

Israel, as the supporter and patron of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces controlling the enclave, is facing a serious dilemma: Should the enclave be put to a military test, in which it may fall to the Lebanese Army, or should Israel permit the withdrawal of the SLA troops but only after massive U.S. pressure, with Israel appearing to leave the area with its tail between its legs? The third possibility may perhaps seem more acceptable in light of the new conditions in the area, and it calls for an orderly turnover of the Jazzin enclave to the Lebanese Government, after putting security arrangements in force. Right now, an Israeli decision to withdraw the pro-Israeli forces from Jazzin would be interpreted as a goodwill gesture toward the Lebanese Government. It would result in important political gains just prior to the important agreement-making process expected to take place in the region shortly.

One can see the possibility, therefore, that within several months the enclave will be turned over to the control of the Lebanese Army with the agreement of the SLA and the Israeli Government, but not before the Lebanese and Syrian Governments, which support the Lebanese Army, accept some Israeli conditions. Israel can, and has the right, to place some conditions on the possible negotiations over the Jazzin enclave, including: the continued disarming of the Palestinian militias, until the threat of terror posed by the Palestinian organizations against our northern border is lifted; a determined struggle against the Hizballah until its activists are disarmed, first within the Jazzin enclave and later throughout all of Lebanon; and a Lebanese-Syrian commitment to the safety and well-being of General Lahd's troops, who live in Jazzin, after the Lebanese Army takes over the area.

Most experts concur that Israel and the SLA could manage without the Jazzin enclave, despite its limited strategic importance. The main problem is in the assessment that giving up Jazzin may be interpreted as the beginning of the end of the security zone, whose future will definitely be discussed in the regional conference or in other forums in the near future. On this matter, Israel can content itself with a declaration stipulating that if the central government in Lebanon succeeds in enforcing its control throughout the whole country, dismantling the terrorist organizations, and preventing terror—then there will no longer be any basis for the security doctrine Israel formulated regarding its northern border in 1985.

The Syrians, the real bosses in Lebanon, well understand that Hizballah's terror activities constitute the main stumbling block to any possible arrangement in Lebanon. Syria realizes Israel cannot show any flexibility until Hizballah is disarmed.

Amnesty International's Findings Disputed

TA3007115491 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Jul 91 p 21

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] "Amnesty International's report contributes little to a balanced understanding of Israel's efforts to simultaneously protect human rights and preserve security in the administered territories," states a lengthy communique in English issued by the Justice Ministry yesterday.

The communique doubts the credibility of the fact-finding done by Amnesty International personnel and states that the procedures followed by Israel against extremist elements who promote violence and turmoil are fully in keeping with relevant international and local law. Although Israel is under no obligation to do that, the

communique adds, the same criminal evidence laws that apply in Israel are enforced in the administered territories.

"Amnesty International has repeatedly taken Israel to task for its legal measures. The report attacks Israel and focuses on a handful of isolated problematic cases while ignoring the overall picture. Amnesty International relies on sources with a clear political affiliation. The lawyers quoted in the report are at times prepared to sacrifice their own clients for their political interests. Amnesty International also ignores the provocations and crimes perpetrated by people it describes as 'Palestinian citizens.'

"The authorities are not only responsible for protecting Israelis from violence, but protecting local residents of the territories who are subject to awful terror. The report almost totally ignores the murder of some 450 Palestinians by other Palestinians."

The communique goes on to say that "Amnesty International ignores the fact that detainees have a personal and political interest in exaggerating the description of their interrogation." For example, the Justice Ministry cites the case of Ahmad al-Hawamda, who in August 1989 contended that he had been severely tortured by two interrogators at al-Zahiriyah prison. Later al-Hawamda admitted that he had fabricated his complaint and that he had never met one of the interrogators who had allegedly tortured him, but had heard his name from another detainee.

The communique concludes by saying: "Despite the hardships of the intifadah, Israel has managed to maintain proper standards in its dealings with the population, as admitted by the authors of the report. Israel remains open to investigation and responsive to constructive criticism by Israeli and foreign human rights groups."

New Political Aide to Shamir Appointed

TA2807110591 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jul 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Yitzhaq Oren has been appointed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's political aide, replacing David Granot.

Oren, 40, served in a number of Foreign Ministry posts, including consul in Boston and New York, and participated in discussions to implement the peace accords with Egypt.

Granot has returned to the Foreign Ministry as head of the disarmament affairs division.

King, Syria's al-Asad Discuss Peace Efforts

JN3107192791 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] His majesty the king telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this evening, and the two leaders exchanged views on recent developments of the peace efforts regarding the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Editorial Welcomes Invitation to Peace Conference

JN0108082791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Aug 91 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "An Important Turning Point in the Peace Efforts"]

[Text] The joint U.S.-Soviet invitation to a Middle East peace conference to be held no later than next October is an important development in the course of the diplomatic efforts being made to hold this conference and is an extremely important turning point in the U.S. position, which was reluctant to put its strategic ally before final options relating to the convening of this conference.

Perhaps the importance of extending the U.S.-Soviet invitation to the peace conference stems from the fact that it came before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker received the Israeli reply, which the U.S. Administration continued to wait for even after the start of Moscow summit between the superpowers leaders. Thus, it can be said that the Moscow summit has succeeded in intercepting the Israeli policy of procrastination and putting Yitzhaq Shamir's government at a crossroads: it either heeds the international community's will as clearly expressed by the Moscow summit or rejects the invitation to attend the conference and consequently appear as the party that obstructs the realization of peace in the Middle East.

This does not mean that Israel will suddenly yield to the desire of Bush and Gorbachev, the cosponsors of the peace conference, and prepare itself for the conference's inaugural session, but the area of Israeli maneuvering has substantially been narrowed after this open invitation to the peace conference.

Therefore, when James Baker returns on a sixth tour of the Middle East, he will be armed with the results of the Moscow summit and will be able to speak with the only party that refuses the peace proposals in a way that indicates a real change in the course of the peace process after a date has been fixed for the peace conference.

As we welcome the U.S.-Soviet invitation to the peace conference in October, we hope that Israel will not be able—as it used to do in the past—to force the U.S. Administration to retreat from its commitments at the last moment. We also hope that the concerned Arab parties will be able to initiate the highest possible level of coordination so that they can go to the anticipated conference with unified positions, concepts, and policies.

Al-Masri Wants Meeting of 'Confrontation States'

JN0108101091 Amman PETRA-JNA in English 0930 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, Aug. 1 (PETRA)—Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri stressed Wednesday that regional and international conditions are ripe to start the Arab-Israeli negotiations in the framework of a peace conference which will be called by the United States and the Soviet Union.

In an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH daily newspaper al-Masri called to speed up the process of convening a meeting among the Arab confrontation states to coordinate their positions vis-a-vis the peace process. He warned against Israel's moves to force Syria to separate peace talks with the Jewish State and said that Jordan considers the Palestine issue as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and any rejection by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on the formation of a joint delegation will place Jordan in an embarrassing situation in light of the regional and international political framework and in view of Jordan's close ties with Palestine problem.

The prime minister denied the existence of any splits within his government and stressed that the cabinet members were in total solidarity and agreement on every issue.

Mr. al-Masri stressed the need to halt the Israeli settlement program in the occupied territories, "such settlements are bound to abort the coming peace talks from the start," he warned. Mr. al-Masri said that there can be no Arab-Israeli solution in isolation from a Palestinian-Israeli solution because otherwise no peace and stability can be achieved.

Editorial on Linking Sabotage With Religion

JN3107144891 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 30 Jul pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "We Denounce Subversion and Reject Instigation"]

[Text] Although only a fair judiciary can verify the official announcement about sabotage, and although a just and public trial in accordance with the articles of law is the only way to condemn or acquit a person accused of such crimes, we cannot but denounce and condemn all attempts to destabilize the homeland's security, terrorize the public, and impinge upon innocent people's lives and property. What adds to the ugliness of such crimes is the ill- intended and cunning effort to link the stabbing of a guard, the setting of a commercial shop on fire, the blowing up of a citizen's car, or the planting of an explosive device in the restrooms of a mosque, with the names of sacred things that every Muslim regards with

respect and reverence such as "Muhammad's Army" or "Mujahidin for the Sake of God." Linking evil and subversive acts and religious names that occupy a high place in our hearts is a clear indication that those who are forging the link are full of evil intentions and hatred for Islam and Muslims and that they are cunning and conspiratorially minded people who felt uneasy to see Jordan enjoy stability, freedom, and security, and to see its people resist the attempts to force them to bow and accept hegemony.

Those who concocted this exposed plot wanted to strike at a host of sacred meanings at the same time, and to set off a malignant bomb whose pieces would go in all directions. They also wanted to undermine the meaning of jihad, which is the priority duty in Islam, in order to cast doubt on all those who called for it and to undermine the blessed intifadah in order to cast doubt on all those supporting and collecting donations for it. They also sought to undermine the jihad of the Muslin Afghan people, of whom more than a million were killed by the communists and others are still bleeding. They sought in the first place to hurt Jordan—homeland, people, and pioneering experiment in liberty, shura, and coherence.

We strongly denounce these actions, and we cannot but denounce and reject the position taken by some writers with imported ideologies who are trying to fish in muddy waters and who are striving hard to arbitrarily distribute charges and pass verdicts.

The public still remembers some of the events in other Arab countries when certain security organs in these countries resorted to this type of action as a pretext to impose a state of emergency or to continue its application. There were even countries whose security organs played a role in fabricating the incidents themselves. Jordan will not follow this course. We are confident that the hostile quarters that were angered to see Jordan live in security and freedom and that spared no effort to instigate internal friction and fighting, will fail in their endeavor and that Jordan will remain, God willing, strong, powerful, and united. All the attempts of the enemies, the ill-intended, and the intruders will founder on the rock of its steadfastness.

Circassian Involvement in Armed Group Highlighted

JN3107124391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jul 91 p 20

["With Life and People" column by Dr. Musa al-Kilani: "Bullet Missionaries"]

[Excerpts] When 17 Jordanian Circassian youths join an armed organization that threatens the country's security and stability, it indicates a temporary flaw in the historic ties between all Circassians and the Jordanian official establishment.

It is indeed a dangerous flaw that prompted a group of these youths, relying on the weak judgment that jihad is being obstructed, to employ its combat skills in Afghanistan, and to direct its ardent Islamic enthusiasm and inflamed religious zeal to booby-trap the car of a security citizen, resulting in the amputation of the leg of a peaceful neighbor.

It is the same dangerous flaw which, two years ago in Ma'an almost destroyed the historic ties between the southern tribes and the official Jordanian establishment itself, especially since Ma'an holds special importance because it received the vanguards of the Great Arab Revolt and because it hosted the founder leader of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Duty requires all people to immediately work to rectify the lack of contacts and understanding with the new generations and the Islamic ideological trends so that they do not feel like strangers, isolated and besieged. The feelings of estrangement and of being besieged are the dynamics of defiant violence which creates blind extremism, the first enemy to the fabric of Jordanian society with its tolerance, openness, orderliness, and ambitions.

It is time for us to hear the opinion of the Islamic figures in Jordan—whether those who work in Islamic fatwa [Islamic ruling] or judiciary—concerning what has happened as a contribution to closing the gap of contacts and understanding and to eliminating the feelings of besiegement and estrangement which, in Egypt, created the Repudiation and Renunciation Society.

It is time the other Islamic movements followed the example of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan which strongly denounced and condemned what the secret armed organization has done.

It is time for every sincere and zealous person to work to close the gap of contacts and understanding so that the booby-trapped car remains an isolated incident, not a repeated phenomenon that sweeps away what King Husayn wants for this country, namely, a steadfast bastion, a springboard to victory, and an oasis of security and happiness. The clear fact remains that they are not the soldiers of Prophet Muhammad, who prohibited Muslims from killing or stealing another Muslim's money.

They are not the soldiers of Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of tolerance, love, and justice.

They are not the soldiers of Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of values, morals, and enlightenment.

French Envoy in Beirut To Discuss 'Awn Issue

NC3107172891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] AFP today cited a Lebanese Government source as reporting that a new French envoy is currently in Beirut to discuss the issue of General Michel 'Awn. The source said that the envoy, whom he declined to name but described as holding an important position, has contacted the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and is scheduled to meet with Gen. 'Awn.

Al-Hirawi Delivers Army Day Anniversary Speech

NC0108090491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Army Day at the Ministry of National Defense in al-Yarzah—live]

[Excerpts] O military men: I stand among you today knowing that the entire homeland is proud of you. You have implemented the state's decisions with all loyalty and worthiness. [passage omitted] Thanks to the unity between the government, people, and Army, you have implemented the tasks which the state has assigned you. You are the sword of authority against domination, the sword of unity against disintegration, and the sword of justice against injustice. You are Lebanon's sword against its enemies. [passage omitted]

O military men: We want to build a state in which peace will prevail. Our aim is not only to stop the war. We want to build a state that removes the causes of the war and prevents its resumption. This year we have been busy in cleaning the country of the recurrent showdowns and their aftermath. The state has drawn up a clear program which it has implemented gradually in Greater Beirut, Sidon and nearby areas, and in the steadfast south. You have carried out additional tasks in all of Mount Lebanon, the north, and al-Biqa'. In Beirut and the mountain, your government has removed the causes which led to the establishment of the militias. It has disbanded these militias and collected their weapons. Only the state's weapons have remained. In Sidon and the areas east of it, the state's authority has been imposed. You have implemented the decisive and firm decision that no mini-states should exist within Lebanon. There is no bargaining and no compromise on Lebanon's right to impose its sovereignty on every inch of its territory. [passage omitted]

You are now deploying in the steadfast south to impose the Lebanese state's authority up to the internationally recognized borders. Lebanon is no longer incompetent. Lebanon is no longer unable to safeguard its sovereignty. Restoring the south to the state's authority is a Lebanese, Arab, and international responsibility. The state has proven it is able to impose its authority over its territory. The United Nations must now prove its credibility in implementing its resolutions. The world, which has supported the al-Ta'if accord and backed it in letter and spirit, is called upon to help us complete the implementation of this accord. [passage omitted]

The government has begun to act to recover the south. It has mobilized all political efforts toward this end. In the next few weeks, we intend to approach the United Nations to affirm Lebanon's right and to follow up the contacts with all friends to speed up the implementation of the UN resolutions, above all Resolution 425. We insist on separating the Lebanese issue from the Middle East issue. We adhere to what the brothers unanimously decide. You must be confident that we are not alone. Lebanon's rights in the south are a test of the world and a touchstone of the credibility of UN responsibility in upholding the principles of justice and security. [passage omitted]

The state will spare no effort to provide the Army with all its requirements. Before anything else, it will start to repair military barracks and establishments. We will rebuild administration on modern methods embodying the state's responsibility in serving its people and starting the march of reconstruction and building. We are preparing the blueprints for the reconstruction of Beirut, preliminary to the reconstruction of all areas. [passage omitted]

We will rebuild the state and complete the implementation of the national detente accord. We thank all brothers and friends, who have supported us in our march. We greatly appreciate the sacrifices which have been made and are being made by brother President Hafiz al-Asad in order to help Lebanon consolidate its unity and sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister's Address Marks Army Day

NC3107184991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Prime Minister 'Umar Karami's address marking Army Day on 31 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Tomorrow is Army Day, which this year has special significance for the Lebanese people and the military. In the past, there was some controversy over how people regarded the Army and over its role and tasks. This controversy was a reflection of the situation in the homeland and an expression of political positions. Now, however, when the Lebanese people are united behind the national charter and have adopted and implemented the course of national reconciliation, the Army has merged into a unified body to defend the march of peace and security and to carry out the mission entrusted to it by the state's political leaders. This has meant that all the Lebanese people support the Army, bless its steps, and welcome it in the areas where it deploys.

While political decisionmaking is the province of sovereign, independent states, the way in which these decisions are implemented demonstrates their capability and credibility. A unified and disciplined army is the arm

which executes these decisions and the instrument which establishes the state's authority and raises the banner of right and justice.

Despite the difficulties it experienced, the Lebanese Army has proved that it is worthy of trust and well able to fulfill the mission entrusted to it.

Today, as Lebanon wages a battle to liberate the territory occupied by Israel, we turn our eyes toward and pin our hopes on the Army, so that it can prove to the whole world that Lebanon has regained its health and has a central government that is once again exercising its powers, establishing its authority over its territory, and enforcing the law without discrimination.

The liberation of the land through implementing Resolution 425 is Lebanon's irrevocable decision and one that the government is determined to pursue by all means available. Everyone must know that this resolution is not subject to negotiation and that Lebanon's participation in the proposed peace conference has no relation with Resolution 425 and in no way indicates that the Lebanese issue is linked to the Middle East issue. Lebanon decided to attend the conference because it is an Arab state that wanted to participate in a discussion of issues of interest to fraternal Arab states, not because it wished to discuss implementing Resolution 425, which remains valid and which binds Israel to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanon.

This year's Army Day celebration is special, coming at a time when Lebanon is recovering from its fall and overcoming its 16-year predicament. This predicament jeopardized the very structure of the state and its institutions, including the military establishment, which is the mainstay of the state and the symbol of its strength. It is incumbent upon this establishment to adopt a nationalist outlook rooted in the premise that Lebanon's internationally recognized borders are sacred and that safeguarding and defending them is the first duty of the Lebanese soldier. The army we want is one that belongs to the entire homeland, not just to a certain sect. As we salute our beloved Army on its day, praise its command and personnel, and honor the memory of its martyrs, I declare in the name of the government that I am proud to lead that we are determined to continue to the Army's march and enhance its capabilities, in terms of numbers and equipment, so that it becomes the sole military force in Lebanon and its weapons, the only weapons carried here. Long live the Army, long live Lebanon.

No SLA Casualties Reported in Kafr Falus Attack

NC3107194091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1919 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] According to reports from the south, South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in Kafr Falus came under attack between 2145 and 2205 tonight. The SLA units are now firing at the attacking group, which is withdrawing along the Marah al-Ahdath-Lib'a line. There have been no reports on casualties in the SLA ranks.

Al-Asad Emphasizes Arab Rights, Return of Land

JN0108075391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Aug 91

["Text" of speech by President Hafiz al-Asad to the Armed Forces on 46th anniversary of the establishment of the Syrian Arab Army; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] My brothers and sons in our Armed Forces, brave officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers: I greet you all with the most wonderful greeting on this day and congratulate you on the 46th anniversary of the establishment of the Syrian Arab Army. I express my pride in you and your positions and in your efforts and sacrifices. You have always been a splendid example of manhood and courage and a true example of commitment to principles and to the issues of the nation. These traits were manifested in you wherever you were and during all the tasks you fulfilled in defense of the principle and the cause, wherever you were called to carry out your national and pan-Arab duty. You have always been the vigilant eye and the honest and loyal guardian who defends the homeland. Through the epics of heroism you have waged with a lofty national spirit and great readiness for sacrifice, and through your positions of pride and honor you have proved that you are the grandsons of the pioneers who had the honor of carrying the message of enlightenment and civilization all over the world.

Brothers and sons of our brave Armed Forces: We are the owners of a right and a cause. Whoever has a right for which he fights and a cause he defends will certainly attain his right and bring about the triumph of the cause. To defend our right and our issues we must be strong. We must be strong with our principles, with our great people, with our will, with what we prepare for our present and future, and with our army, weapons, and knowledge. We have built and continue to build the power of this homeland on the basis of good and right for the sake of the most lofty virtues in which man believes. Our enemy, which occupied our land, built and continues to build its power on the basis of evil in the full sense of the word. What a difference between a power for the good, and a power for the evil!

When we defend, we defend what is ours, and when we demand something we demand what is our right. Our enemy, however, is maneuvering, acting arrogantly, and stockpiling weapons to maintain control over what it has acquired treacherously and aggressively, wishing for more expansion in the Arab land. If the aggressor does not stop seeking power for his aggressive designs, then it is appropriate for the victim of the aggression to possess power for his defensive needs. War has never been one of our objectives at any time. Rather, it has always been linked to land and rights and dignity and pride which requires us to ward off evil and repel aggression against the homeland and the nation.

Today we celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of our army while being very confident in ourselves and more determined to liberate our occupied land and restore the Arab rights usurped by aggression. As we celebrate this occasion, the world is more convinced of what we have long demanded and called for. The world is more convinced that justice is the basis of peace and that just and comprehensive peace in this region is an objective whose attainment requires ending the occupation by returning the Arab occupied territory to its owners and restoring the usurped Arab rights, including the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and the Lebanese Arab people.

If the world's interaction with our cause and its responsiveness to our understanding of just peace would help our struggle, then our efforts, capabilities, and especially our belief in martyrdom in defense of the homeland and the people remain the basis for attaining our objectives.

Our efforts are the efforts of our great people. Brothers and sons, you are an important vanguard of the people. The capabilities of the homeland are your capabilities. The capabilities of our farmers, women, laborers, and intellectuals along with the capabilities of all sectors of society contribute to the process of building the homeland and supporting its capabilities. Syria's accomplishments in the past years of the revolution's life in the various economic, educational, cultural, constructional, and defensive fields have strengthened its position and given us the elements of strength and struggle for the sake of what we believe in and for the sake of the national and pan-Arab objectives we place before our eyes. What we have accomplished in past years and what we are proceeding to achieve now and in the future consolidates our confidence that we are proceeding on the road to victory.

On this occasion, I would like to stress the leadership's pride in you and your efforts; in what you have accomplished in the past year in terms of practical training and development of your capabilities on land, in the air, and at sea; in your constant alertness; and in the sublime tasks you have carried out in helping the brothers who called on you to help them, and you honored the call.

We must always remain at a high level of alertness and readiness because this is the characteristic of the defenders of the homeland everywhere and at anytime.

Greetings of love and appreciation to our proud kinfolk in the Golan and to our brothers in southern Lebanon and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who steadfastly and faithfully face occupation and aggression. We assert our pledge that we are with them and that we will side with them until the occupied land is liberated. Glory of all glory to our righteous martyrs, who drew the road of dignity and honor in their pure blood. The most lofty tribute to them is to stress our faith in the road of heroism they crossed and in the road of martyrdom which they followed, so that the slogan of martyrdom or victory continues to direct our steps on the road to victory.

My heartfelt greetings to their families, who will continue to get all they deserve in terms of care and attention. A heartfelt greeting to you officers, the noncommissioned officers, and soldiers wherever you are. Let us continue with more determination and resolution the march of herosim in which we have made wide strides for which our people and nation are proud.

God's blessings be upon you.

[Dated] 1 August 1991
[Signed] Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Asad, president and general commander of the Army and Armed Forces

Press Reviews Moscow Summit Call for Conference

JN0108064591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 1 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH deals with Presidents Gorbachev-Bush Moscow summit and Israel's antagonistic attitude. The paper points out that this summit has called for convening a peace conference in October. During the summit, it was also announced that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will make his sixth tour of the region to obtain an Israeli response.

AL-BA'TH adds: Hours before the outcome of this summit was announced, Yitzhaq Shamir came out with an answer, which, we think, was neither new nor strange, because it was in line with the Zionist ideology and Israel's desires. He said that Israel has no territories to give up or negotiate over, and that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital and there will be no negotiations over it. Thus, he confirmed Israel's attempt to evade a dialogic confrontation based on the resolutions of the most supreme international body, which was originally established on the basis of man's dire need for peace.

In its editorial, the paper refers to Syria's position on peace. It stresses that Syria has found in the points contained in President Bush's letter a basis for a solution that aims to establish a just and comprehensive peace, based on the UN resolutions.

The paper says: In his important statements to THE WASHINGTON POST and NEWSWEEK, President Hafiz al-Asad has left no ambiguity over all the issues that may be raised. He dotted the i's, gave an objective comprehensive assessment of the entire peace process, and stressed the need for a comprehensive and just peace. There is no room to overlook the return of the occupied Arab territory and the retrieval of the usurped Palestinian rights.

AL-BA'TH says: On behalf of the millions of Arabs, President al-Asad explained very clearly that our territories are not at Israel's disposal, and that Israel cannot take from them what it thinks will guarantee its security. President al-Asad wondered: If Israel does not leave the territories, then why do we want peace? And what will be the return? No people in the world would accept anything in return for their land. Today, the dividing lines are clear. Positions are even clearer. The problem of the world community, and the United States in particular, does not lie with the Arabs, but with Israel. For the first time, with unprecedented frankness and clarity, the entire world is standing face to face against the flagrant Israeli intransigence. The credibility of the United States and the international legitimacy now hinges on launching a peace process in the region.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, through its leader al-Asad, has clearly stressed that it desires a just and comprehensive peace. Its positions are very clear: It does not escape peace, it does not fear from dealing directly with the new equations, and it does not keep its distance from the international efforts but deals with them, with full confidence in itself and rights, to fight the battle of peace. Israel has been, and still is, the obstacle to the peace efforts and the peace conference in this region. Can the United States, the country that made the current proposals, overcome that obstacle? Will Baker's sixth tour prove this, especially since the U.S. credibility is now in the balance and the world's attention is focused on it?

Under the headline "After the Moscow Summit," TISHRIN says in its editorial that fixing a date for a peace conference by Presidents Gorbachev and Bush significantly confirms the credibility of an international political position that is trying to shoulder responsibilities toward a peace process in the region.

The paper adds: Regardless of the nature of Baker's tour, expected to start today, it is a firm fact that the proposals, statements, and impossible conditions made by leaders of Israeli enemy do not call for optimism. This means that if long lasting peace is to be achieved, there must be an end to Israeli arrogance. Shamir's government must also be warned against the repercussions and results of these intransigent positions, which does not aid in regional stability or international peace. Pressure on Israel must also be mounted to make Israel abandon, once and for all, its aggressive and expansionist intentions and desires.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: As the world has come to realize, it is unacceptable for Israel to remain a source of constant aggression in the region, threatening security and stability at a time when the world aspires for a new international era, based on right, justice, and legitimacy.

Under the headline "What We Will Not Accept," AL-THAWRAH says in one of its commentaries: Until now, one can see no sign of hope to indicate that Israel has abandoned, or is about to abandon, the policy of illusions and dreams. Until now, Israel has not moved, not even an inch, from its intransigent positions. It continues to reject, and throw no's here and there in the face of anything that would push the peace process one inch forward and defuse tension in this region and restore security and stability to it.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Until Israel confirms its seriousness, and gives tangible proof on the sincerity of its inclination toward peace, and acknowledges the Arabs' territories and usurped rights, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council are asked to abide by the UN resolutions they have passed, or helped to pass, and accepted. They are asked to force Israel to submit to the will of peace without any delay and spare this region the specter of a new war, whose disastrous repercussions and effects on the future of the entire world cannot be foretold.

Commentary on Israeli Refusal To Withdraw

JN3107155291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, no single day passes without Yitzhaq Shamir reaffirming Israel's refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem and the Golan. Shamir also keeps reaffirming Israel's determination to continue to build settlements and encircle West Bank cities with housing complexes, so as to change the features of the territories as part of the Greater Israel scheme. Yesterday, Yitzhaq Shamir fired off more statements, at a time when the U.S.-Soviet summit was under way in Moscow, and when the United States and the USSR were expressing hopes that a just and comprehensive peace might be established in the Middle East.

The truth is that Shamir's statements no longer find any positive response anywhere in the world. The more intense his statements become, the more aware the world is of the need to stand up to Israeli recalcitrance and to engage in good offices to save the Middle East from war, conflagration, and tension, and find a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that will give the Palestinian people their right to a free, dignified life; restore the occupied territories to the Arabs; and entrenches peace and safety in the Middle East.

Having found in the Syrian response to the peace proposals and in the Arab readiness to settle the worsening Middle East dispute, a historic unique opportunity to establish definite, genuine peace on the basis of UN resolutions, the international community has shown unequivocal determination not to miss this opportunity. It has asked the influential superpowers to exert the necessary pressure to clear any obstacle to the peace process, especially since the foundations of just and comprehensive peace are incontestable worldwide.

If we set Israel aside, the United States, the USSR, the PRC, and the European countries—in fact, the entire world—concur that an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people are two conditions for peace; in fact, there will be absolutely no peace without these two conditions. Hence, the fact that President Bush's proposals rest on Resolutions 242 and 338 and stem from the principle of exchanging land for peace on all fronts. The USSR and the rest of the world, therefore, have supported these proposals. Leader President Hafiz al-Asad also declared Syria's response to these proposals, as they represent an acceptable and reasonable basis to bring about the aspired ending and comprehensive settlement.

Given this international consensus, Israel will no more be able to shirk the obligations of peace and resort to its traditional procrastination and equivocation and further conditions. Israel has, for years, been shedding tears over peace and about the Arabs' lack of response to the appeals for peace. Israel, however, cannot, after all the right conditions are given for a conference attended by all parties involved under the auspices of the two superpowers and the participation of Europe and the United Nations, face the world rejecting peace outright. If it does so, it will lose all credit internationally and the favored relationship with the United States. No country in the world will be able to find a single excuse to support Israel, militarily or economically, so long as these funds are employed against peace in the region and international peace and detente.

Shamir convinced only himself when he made it a condition that Palestinians not be represented or when he excluded Jerusalem residents from participation in the peace conference. Shamir also only convinced himself when he declared that Jerusalem and the Golan are not negotiable and when he claimed the right of Jewish immigrants to settle on Arab territories.

The road to peace is clear and its signs are known to everybody. For the peace conference to end in peace, it requires the participation of all parties involved. To be considered a peace, moreover, it has to be comprehensive and just. This is the conviction of the Arabs and the international community. There is no alternative, but to the return of all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan. There is no doubt that the international community, the Moscow summit, and all influential forces, share the responsibility of exerting sufficient pressure to make Israel come back to its senses and comply with UN resolutions.

India

Three 'Militants' To Be Released for Official

BK3107094491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] The government has decided to release Javed Ahmad Shalla on bail and three other [Kashmir] militants on parole, to secure the safe release of [Indian Oil Corporation official] Mr. Doraiswamy. Disclosing this in the Rajya Sabha, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that the state government is approaching the court for Shalla's bail. He said that negotiations with the militants were resumed yesterday and the militants said they would free Mr. Doraiswamy three hours after the militants were released. Mr. Chavan said the government has rejected the condition and is firm that the exchange should be simultaneous. The issue was raised by Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia and Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, both Congress-I.

Probe Into Bank's Operations Demanded

BK0108090191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Opposition members in the Lok Sabha today made a strong demand for a thorough probe into the operations of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in India and its reported assistance to Kashmiri militants. Raising the matter during zero hour, they express disquiet over reports that the bank had even tried to influence parliamentarians, politicians, and bureaucrats. They demanded that the issue should be probed by a house committee.

Minister on Defense Products Exports, Production

BK0108033091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] The union minister of state for defense, Mr. S. Krishnakumar, has said that the country will export defense products worth 120 crore rupees in the current year. He said in Calcutta that a large number of Third World Countries have sent their delegations and discussions and are now being held to secure firm orders. The minister also said that in the light of the new industrial policy, there is scope for cooperation between the private and the public sector in defense production.

Sri Lankans With LTTE Links Face Deportation

BK0108085891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, having connections with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], will be deported from Tamil Nadu. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha during question hour that the Tamil Nadu government is now conducting a house-to-house survey to ensure that the refugees properly register themselves. He said there are over 210,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, out of which 75,000 have not registered.

Commentary Urges Greater Japanese Cooperation

BK3107123591 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 31 Jul 91

[P.A. Narsimha Murthy commentary]

[Text] In the fast changing global landscape, India and Japan have stepped into the 1990's with a bilateral relationship that is correct, mostly economic in content and insulated against the shifting currents of world politics and power balances. It is a relationship of modest profile and promises to remain so for the foreseeable future. Now the country has an agenda to push this bilateral bond into a special category, no matter what claims are made by spokesmen of each from time to time. This is so because the two have qualitatively different economic, political and global concerns and priorities. Some attempts were made in the 1980's to accelerate the pace of India-Japanese relationship through frequent and multiple exchanges of high-powered delegations, holding of cultural festivals, conducting dialogues at different levels and the creation of a fast-track channel to process proposals for business tie ups between India and Japan. The results achieved has not exactly been exciting.

A realistic appraisal of India-Japanese relations must take into consideration, differences in the nature and levels of development of the two economies and the asymmetry in their dependence on each other. For India, Japan is an important partner— being the largest provider of official development assistance, the third biggest trading partner and the fourth leading country in technical collaboration and investment. From Japan's point of view, India takes rather insignificant place in its global economic activities accounting for 0.9 percent of its foreign trade, 0.1 percent of its cumulative overseas investment and eight to 10 percent of industrial and business collaborations abroad. India does not yet figure as an important factor in Japan's global economic strategy. This situation can be changed and Japan's vast reserves of economic power made to energize our own economy if we are able to design an innovative approach in handling our economic relations with that country. The elements of that approach are designs and quality to meet the sensitive requirements of Japanese buyers, maintenance of delivery schedules, price advantages, which are less attractive than those offered by other suppliers, and direct contacts with distribution agencies. These efforts will be productive of results if the range of policy supports for export, like upgraded industrial capabilities, ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening infrastructure and simplification of procedures as envisioned by the Commerce Ministry's 1989-90 annual report, is put into full play; and of

course, a meaningful change in Japan's attitude toward the entry of Indian manufactured products into its markets is also necessary.

The prospects for enhanced Japanese capital and technology flows remain better than the prospects for India-Japanese trade. Japan is already the largest giver of bilateral official development assistance to India with a share of 25 to 30 percent of all bilateral support received by this country. Much of this funding has gone into construction, engineering, metal processing, power and telecommunication projects. There are indications that future assistance from Japan will be (?invested) in favor of expanding facilities for primary education and family planning programs and the assistance could cover about 85 percent of local project costs regardless of whether they are in foreign exchange or local currency. At present, very limited Japanese assistance covers local cost and the bulk is meant to cover the foreign exchange portion of project costs.

Japanese private investment in India is a different story. It stands at 0.1 percent of Japan's cumulative foreign investment and this may not show a dramatic rise in the foreseeable future. True, from 1981 to 1987 there was a spurt in Japanese investments in India in response to certain pragmatic adjustments in India's trade and investment policies and streamlining of procedures. Even with that, Japan's share of all foreign investment entering India did not exceed 10 percent of the total. The [word indistinct] private Japanese participation in India's industrialization has been due to reservations, which Japanese investors have held regarding the investment climate here, and these reservations concern some important aspects of our industrial police like limits to equity and managerial participation, indigenization of production and export requirements. One hopes that these reservations would vanish now, that the new government of India has announced major changes in the country's industrial and commercial policies. The new measures are bound to go a long way in tapping the full economic potential of India's partnership with Japan.

Opening of Economy to Multinationals Criticized

BK3007153291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, members from the left parties and the Janata Dal criticized the government for what they called reversal of socioeconomic policies and the move toward integration with global economy. Participating in the resumed debate on the general budget, they said it lacks perspective to remove poverty and social inequalities and the initiative to tackle unemployment.

Refuting these contentions, the ruling party members described the budget as a bold and imaginative step, aimed at balancing the need for economic justice with growth. They also welcomed the move to broadbase the direct taxes, to lessen the burden of resource mobilization on poorer sections. Divergent views on party lines were expressed on the opening up of economy to multinationals. The discussion will continue.

The opposition members in the Rajya Sabha strongly criticized the budget, accusing the government of having succumbed to IMF pressures. They said the policy of self-reliance and socialism had been given up. Most of the Congress-I members supported the budget but expressed their reservations on the issue of opening the economy to multinational corporations. One member called for the cutting down of nonplan expenditure.

Five Killed During Encounter in Khankot

BK0108081491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including three militants, were killed last night. According to an official spokesman, two militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Khankot area of Amritsar District. One under-custody militant committed suicide in Sangrur District. In Gurdaspur District, vigilant jawans [soldiers] repulsed successfully a forceful attempt by militants to overrun a defense post in Chak Sharif village.

Political 'Misgivings' Hinder River Settlement

BK0108091091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Several Indo-Nepal multipurpose river valley projects have not yet been cleared, due to some misgivings among certain political sections in that country about India's resultant benefits. Disclosing this in the Lok Sabha, during question time today, the minister of water resources, Mr. V.C. Shukla, said that the misconception about India gaining more benefits from these projects has to be removed through concerted consultations with Nepal. Answering a supplementary, Mr. Shukla said that since 1980, several rounds of talks on various levels have taken place between the two countries. But no concrete results have been forthcoming. India is consistently pursuing the matter with Nepal and efforts are on to raise the talks at the highest political level, he added.

Court Issues Notices to States on River Issue

BK3107111491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] The Supreme Court has issued notices to the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Pondicherry, on the presidential reference seeking the apex court's advisory opinion on the constitutional issues of the inter-state Cauvery River waters dispute. A three-judge bench comprising of the chief justice, Mr. Ranganath Mishra; Mr. Justice M.H. Kania and Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh, who, turned down a plea by the center for enlarging the hearing on the reference to include the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and

Madhya Pradesh. The court has fixed August 12 for the next hearing on the reference.

The court also rejected Karnataka's plea for tagging on its suit, challenging the constitutional validity of the Cauvery Tribunal's interim order directing, it to release 205 TMC [thousand metric cubic] feet of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. The chief justice, Mr. Ranganath Mishra, said the court did not agree that the suit was in any way connected with the presidential reference.

Iran

Khamene'i Statement to Armed Forces Staff

LD3107125691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 91

["Text" of statement by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces, at the Armed Forces Joint Staff office on 31 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We are thankful to the great God as we witness ever increasing signs of strength in the pillars of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the days go by. Thanks be to God that today the Armed Forces have strength in all their branches and that they enjoy popularity among the people. Indeed, we can say that the Army is in its best position since the victory of the Islamic revolution. Today the Armed Forces Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys a desirable situation and is now placed where it belongs within the overall entity of the Armed Forces.

That achievement is attributable to divine providence. There were far too many difficulties. Since the beginning of the victory of the revolution there have been obstacles all along until today. However, the will of the revolution and the will of our great Imam together with the desire of the people all combined to overcome all the obstacles and harassments.

The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be grateful for what they now have. I believe in this regard the popular base of the Armed Forces stands above everything else. Through the experience of the imposed war and even prior to that, the Armed Forces managed to demonstrate their Islamic essence on many occasions. Of course, there have been shortcomings as well. The right way of thinking, however, is to base principles on positive points. We must clarify our course toward the objectives and then march forward, fully determined. Negative points, difficulties, and obstacles will pale in a determined march; they will be overcome.

What I have always recommended to the Armed Forces—and I do so now—is that the Armed Forces must steadily increase their spiritual and material strength. More important than material strength is spiritual strength—morale, faith, love of responsibility, and selfless efforts. Success is where the people stand by the Armed Forces, and by the officials.

All over the world when you see there is mendacity, weakness, and helplessness in the face of difficult events, the basic reason is that there is distance between the active hands of the country's regime and the people.

Why should the usurper Zionist regime—backed by the United States and by money from Zionists all over the world—be able to bully Arab nations so blatantly today? Why today, after decades during which Muslims and the Arab masses boycotted and considered as base any negotiations with Israel, which is an imposter, rootless, imposed, and usurper regime in the region, is the idea of negotiation, unfortunately, being accepted among political elements and many Arab governments? This is because the people are not present. It is because the hands of the people are not moving in the same direction as the active hands of those countries. It is because the regimes are moving along one path and nations along another. The result is weakness. Otherwise, if the Arab regimes that are today accepting talks with Israel, relied on their own people, they would not feel that they have no choice or are obliged to sit with their own domestic enemy, with the usurper of their own lands, and negotiate over territory that has been usurped. If they had allowed the people to enter the arena; if they respected the feelings, thoughts, resolve, and strength of nations, then the nations would not have allowed the Arab countries and regimes to become so weak.

Has the problem of Palestine and the usurpation of this Islamic territory for half a century now changed? Can historical and geographical facts be changed?

Palestine is Palestine, it is an Islamic land; it belongs to its nation and its people. An enemy comes and occupies your home as a usurper and then forces you to sign that occupation. What humiliation is worse than this? Our position regarding Israel is as it has always been: Israel is a malignant tumor in the region. It must be cut off, it must be eradicated. Contrary to the belief of superficial people who look at the support Israel receives from the U.S. superpower that this task is impossible, it is possible! It is practical and it shall be done!

Superpowers are not eternal. Material powers exist one day and do not exist the next day. Yesterday there was a power called the USSR, a superpower in this world; today, it no longer exists. This experience in history is before our very eyes. I believe that a number of proud Arab governments will not be prepared to bear this misery, and they must not do so either. The people will not bear this at all. The Americans are mistaken if they believe that they can thus solve the Middle East problem in this way. They must know that the position of any regime that sits behind the negotiating table with the Zionist usurper regime will become shaky among its people. Instability will grow daily in the region. The

people will follow their own path. Those regimes that contradict the people will have the same fate as the negotiators at Camp David.

When the people are behind the government, behind the armed forces, then the armed forces will feel strong, they will not feel alienated. You have this; maintain it. Look at yourself, not at aliens. We will provide equipment for the Armed Forces, for the Islamic revolution Guard Corps. We will equip our forces to the best of our ability. However, our advice to you has always been this: Think of your own abilities and initiatives. The Army, the Navy, and the Air Force have many talents within themselves; they must utilize these talents to the full. We can see today that they are being used, thank God. The Joint Staff will have a guiding, coordinating, and complementary role toward these efforts in the Armed Forces as a whole.

I hope, God willing, that you will succeed and that our Army may be one worthy of our great and heroic nation. We salute the souls of the dear martyrs of the Armed Forces and ask God, the Almighty, to have mercy upon them. We salute the memory of our honorable imam, that vanguard of the divine power and resolve of the Iranian nation and great teacher of the liberation of the world's nations. We hope that all the people of Iran, you military personnel, and all the Armed Forces will succeed in moving daily along the path of our eminent imam and towards his honorable goals. God's peace and mercy be upon you.

President on Asian New Order for Muslims

LD3107162191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr. Ali Alatas, minister of foreign affairs of Indonesia. The president remarked: It seems that new blocs are being formed throughout the world, and Islamic countries should also not miss their opportunities. They should establish closer cooperation regarding regional destiny and future.

After noting regional incidents and developments since the Persian Gulf crisis, the president added: At this sensitive juncture, the upcoming Islamic Conference Organization meeting can become a historic conference for the Muslim countries of the world, at which serious issues pertaining to the world of Islam should be raised.

In another part of his remarks he said: Islamic countries, with such great resources and population, are capable of creating a new order in the Asian continent through consultation and cooperation with each other, and display their presence in the world arena better than ever.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the role played by Indonesia as one of the champions of the non-aligned movement and added: The big member countries of that conference, as champions of the non- aligned against the global powers, ought to inspire a new mission for that organization and revolutionize it.

Referring to the problem of Palestine, the president said: Muslim countries will not allow the rights of Palestinians and those of other world Muslims to be violated; they will not allow America to realize its intentions to support the Israeli regime. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the Persian Gulf crisis, the Arab world is not in a satisfactory situation and our worry is that, taking advantage of this unsatisfactory situation, a conspiracy is being hatched against the world of Islam regarding the problem of Palestine, which would trample on the interests of the Palestinian people and the world of Islam.

At the beginning of the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and the two countries' ambassadors, the minister of foreign affairs of Indonesia called for expansion of bilateral ties in all fields of interest to the two countries. He said: Bilateral political cooperation is very good, and great efforts have been made to investigate new grounds to create a broad basis for economic cooperation which is in the interest of the two countries.

Karrubi Stresses Palestine Issue

LD3107171191 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 31 July, IRNA—Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi told visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on Wednesday that the issue of Palestine was the most important issue on which Muslim countries should concentrate their efforts.

Karrubi called for the solving of problems facing the Palestinian people and for thwarting the plots of the illegal Zionist regime such as the Jewish influx to the occupied Muslim land.

Referring to the initiative of the Majles to hold an international conference on Palestine in Tehran, he expressed hope that parliament speakers and dignitaries from Muslim countries who are to participate in the said confab can take important decisions concerning the Muslim world and Palestine.

The international conference on Palestine is to be held in October.

Karrubi said the forthcoming Tehran conference together with the Islamic foreign ministers' meet in Istanbul this month and the summit of heads of Muslim states in Senegal in December "provides a good opportunity for Iran and Indonesia and for all other Muslim states to determine stands on the world of Islam."

The Majles speaker asked Alatas to convey an invitation to his Indonesian counterpart to take part in the Palestine conference in Tehran.

Alatas called for international efforts to solve the issue of Palestine, saying this was the main topic for Iran and Indonesia at the coming Istanbul meeting.

The indonesian foreign miister who arrived here this morning reiterated his country's desire to expand relations with the Islamic republic.

Velayati Briefs 31 Jul Cabinet Session

NC0108063491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Excerpt] In yesterday's cabinet meeting, some important domestic and foreign events were reviewed, after which some recommendations by the government apparatus were approved. At this session, over which First Vice President Mr. Habibi presided, Foreign Minister Velayati presented a report on the objectives and outcome of his recent visit to Pakistan, and stressed that the convocation of the quadripartite session among the Afghan mujahidin in Iran, Pakistan, and the officials of Iran and Pakistan, as well as the need to activate the Afghanistan issue, were among the main objectives of this visit.

In the second report presented at yesterday's cabinet session, Agriculture Minister Kalantari informed the cabinet of the wheat and barley purchased from the cultivators. The purchase of more than 2.4 million tons of wheat—which was 500,000 tons greater than the same period last year—as well as the purchase of nearly 70,000 tons of barley, were among the statistics announced in this report.

During the course of the session, a report by the government committee was presented and some other recommendations by the various government departments were approved. [passage omitted]

Another Fire in Tehran Bazaar Area Noted

LD0108102391 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, 1 August, IRNA—Large quantities of stored sponge and rice were charred when 'Saray-e Vahedi' and 'Saray-e Moqaddam', both in 'Pamenar' avenue, in the vicinity of Tehran bazaar in downtown caught fire Thursday morning. Fire fighters rushed to the scene of the incident minutes after the fire broke out and managed to put it out after two hours.

The Thursday morning incident was the second fire in the bazaar area in less than a week. In a fire last Monday, several billion rials worth of commodities, including hundreds of handwoven Persian carpets were burned. Experts of the Tehran Fire Brigade are investigating the cause of the Thursday fire and estimate the damage. [sentence as received]

Daily on West's Resolve To Keep Saddam in Power

LD0108044791 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 31 July, IRNA—A Persian daily today castigated the West for adopting a "dual stance" vis-a-vis Saddam Husayn's Iraq.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI noted that while the West seems to be pressuring Baghdad to make it reveal all relevant information on its nuclear potentials, some European states, including France, are playing their own game by trying to ease economic sanctions against Iraq. But, the daily added, the real objective behind France's efforts is to fish in troubled waters and provide the Iraqi regime with a chance for the gradual repayment of its enormous debts to France.

"France, as the main arms supplier of Baghdad during the imposed war against the Islamic Republic (1979-88), had guaranteed the highest possible amount of credits for Saddam Husayn at French banks and companies," recalled the article. Today, France is under the pressure of the same institutions which fuelled the Iraqi war machine and supported "Baghdad's executioner" in its imposed war against Iran, it noted.

"If the present situation in Iraq is deplorable and intolerable, France should be responsible for such a condition.... In fact, Iraqi people are putting the responsibility of such a 'shuddering' situation on the U.S., France, Britain and Arab reactionaries," commented JOMHURI. However, it seems, added the daily, the West is determined to keep Saddam in power in order to facilitate materialization of its two main designs: first, to shape the so- called new security structure for the region and thus keep the "root of crisis" in power since the West lacks major agents to guarantee its influence in this part of the world. Secondly, the paper stressed, the West is scheming to pave the way for the signing of an Arab-Israeli "peace" accord, with perhaps Saddam as one of the signatories.

The West is in fact trying to destroy all of Iraq's "aggressive potentials" so that after Saddam's possible exit from the scene such potentials would not put the existence of the illegal Zionist state at stake," it concluded.

Daily on U.S. 'Threatening Trend' in Middle East

NC0108065891 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 18 Jul 91 pp 1, 8

[M. Qums commentary: "Disarmament and Psychological Warfare"]

[Excerpts] In its first step toward its formulation of the new order, the United States has placed the disarmament of the Middle East at the top of its agenda and has enlisted the help of its propaganda machinery in this process. This threatening trend is a warning to all Middle East countries, and ultimately, for the Third World. As

to why the Middle East has become the stamping ground for U.S. threats and propaganda, this stems from the collective events in the region and the strategic importance of the Middle East, which will have far-reaching effects. [passage omitted]

The balance of power in the Middle East, which for years has tilted in favor of Israel, is now undergoing a change. This trend is one which the supporters of this regime have pursued intensely and basically consider it necessary to extricate the Zionist regime from its present impasse.

In an assessment of the power equilibrium in the Middle East, we can comprehend that this power does not entirely depend on the framework of weaponry, based on military technology, but it is the American analysts and theoreticians who strive to attain their actual objectives through military means.

Contempt, intimidation, and pessimism are three important psychological elements which comprise the main viewpoint of the American theoreticians, and it is on these bases that threats and a propagandistic hue and cry, which are the main elements in a psychological war, are used.

The Middle East is the focus of U.S. attention for three reasons: First, oil and gas energy and the geopolitical location; second, the Islamic ideology; and third, the trend of the Islamic awakening in the past decade and the emergence of seeking independence based on this ideology. This has brought about a change in the U.S. doctrine in the Middle East, which began in the eighties, and today we are at a very important juncture of this change. [passage omitted]

The disarming of the Middle East is a psychological war for the above reasons, and the fact that the U.S. strategy has emerged in this complicated form after the end of the cold war stems from the changes in international conditions. Expansionism has always been a way of life for the United States and its society.

Reciprocally, the economic and political structure imposed on the Third World, especially on the Islamic countries, also needs to change. This is a vital and historical necessity. This is the sole path of salvation of the tyrannized people of the Third World. [passage omitted]

Daily Warns Against U.S. Mideast 'Plot'

NC3007155591 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "America and the All-Embracing Plot in the Middle East"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Damascus on Thursday [18 July] to hold talks with Hafiz al-Asad on the American peace plan for the Middle East. After a 24-hour stopover in Syria, he left Damascus for Cairo yesterday. Baker's Middle East tour will end with his visits to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and occupied Palestine.

Thus, if we add U.S. President George Bush's visit to Turkey to Baker's fifth Middle East tour, we will see how active the American policies on the region are and how sensitive the Americans are to this region.

After the Persian Gulf crisis and the oil war in the region, and in view of the new international situation which is being referred to as the new world order, the Middle East and its extraordinary importance for America forms a major part of America's diplomatic efforts. The situation in the regional countries, Islamic fundamentalism, the close rivalries among the world's big powers in order to gain access to Middle East energy resources, new overtures by countries, changes in the stances of some past puppets, the longstanding conflict between the Muslims and the regime occupying Jerusalem, and other such issues have been the major reasons for the attention U.S. diplomacy is paying to regional problems.

From America's point of view, the first step is gaining access to levers by which to control security in the region—a security in which the flow of the Middle East's rich resources will be directed toward Washington. For this reason, the most essential attention is attached to those areas with higher risks of crises.

In the Middle East, the most deep-rooted anti-American struggle has manifested itself in the form of opposition to the existence of Israel in the region. It is several decades now that the existence of the regime occupying Jerusalem has not been recognized by any of the regional Muslims, and this has been the root for the emergence of many incidents in the region. Thus, the conflicts between the Arabs and Israel form one of the most important parts of this colonialist diplomacy.

Next to this, there is the confrontation of situations such as the recent action by the Iraqi regime to neutralize other possible crises. The Iraqi regime's behavior showed that the stockpiling of considerable quantities of arms in one country, even though on the pretext that these arms are intended to confront Islamic fundamentalism in the region, may one day threaten American interests, even if temporarily. If we add the probability that these arms may sometimes fall into the hands of a popular regime and turn into a weapon to confront foreign domination, the need to do away with these offensive capabilities becomes even more clear. Thus, the policy of regional disarmament also forms another part of this diplomacy.

Next to these, studying ways to create a stronger foothold in the region grants the United States the opportunity to rapidly confront any possible crises that may threaten its future interests.

In order to implement this part of the plot, concepts such as the setting up of bases in northern Iraq, the formation of an independent Kurdish state, new offensive plans

such as the rapid-reaction force known as "Poised Hammer", the use of air bases in southern Turkey, and so on took shape.

Thus, an all-encompassing plot for devouring the rich resources of the Middle East is taking form and being implemented, and unfortunately, some of the regional governments have turned into tools for implementing this plot. In the midst of this, faces can be seen of frontline countries which are confronting the domination of Palestine by the regime occupying Jerusalem.

This plot is being implemented very seriously in each one of the areas stated above.

Baker's fifth visit to the area, and especially to Syria after Hafiz al-Asad's agreement with America's peace plan, has taken place in relation with the implementation of a major part of this dangerous diplomacy. After his meeting with Hafiz al-Asad, Baker left for Cairo and is to go to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and then to Israel from there. Thus, maybe one can say that America's efforts to destroy the long-lasting hostility between the Arab governments and the regime occupying Jerusalem are nearing success, even though this plot does not in any way mean that the hatred felt by the regional masses toward Israel has diminished at all. But at any rate, regrettable events are in the making.

Governments that were for years considered as frontline countries in the fight against Israel are sparking off public opinion among the regional Muslim masses against themselves with the unprincipled and vile flexibilities that they are showing. The regional Muslims will never recognize the existence of Israel. The path of the people is the same that the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, designated. Israel should be removed from the region as a weed and as a cancerous tumor, and this is the clearest stance that the regional people have declared on Israel. The Palestinian combatants will continue their anti-Israeli struggle by strengthening the intifadah and by adding to their serious actions, and the terrified governments will separate themselves from the masses because of their compromising stands.

As another part of this plot, America's efforts aimed at implementing a regional disarmament plan and decreasing the weapons capability of the Middle East have begun.

Unfortunately, the illogical and idiotic acts by the regime ruling Iraq in occupying Kuwait and its insistence on this overt aggression granted America an excellent excuse for implementing this plot. The plot is so comprehensive and vast that it formed one of the topics of discussion during the meeting of the heads of the seven industrialized countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran seriously opposes this part of America's overt plot against the Middle East and the hegemonistic acts by foreigners. But sometimes the alertness and the concordance of other regional governments in this is a must. But incidents are proving the opposite. Complementary to these plots are the steps that America is taking to form military strike forces and forces that are ready to confront any possible crisis.

The formation of the rapid-reaction forces in northern Iraq known as "Poised Hammer" and the forming of ideas on creating an independent Kurdish state in the region, as well as the expansion of the West's relations with Turkey for the use of military installations in southern Turkey, form parts of America's comprehensive plot.

In the West's confrontation with the Middle East, Turkey has assumed the same role it did during the cold war between the West and East. Using Turkey's common borders with the Middle East and the military bases in southern Turkey, aimed at creating a military and armed specter to terrify Middle Eastern countries, helps justify Bush's visit to Turkey. Furthermore, in this very region the creation of the "Poised Hammer" is specifically aimed at creating yet another specter to terrify the region.

Thus, it is completely clear that the Middle East sector of America's new world order only means domination and, ultimately, the exploitation of the Middle East. The regional governments should pay more attention to their fate and their nation's fate.

Seeking refuge in the source of danger to escape other possible dangers is a useless and illogical act. But this is something which, unfortunately, some regional governments are doing. The leaning towards the West by those countries which previously had principled, belligerent stances toward it does not lead to salvation, but is tantamount to seeking refuge in fire. This is the reality which we hope governments will understand before it is too late.

Nepal & Bhutan

Curfew Imposed in Diktel After Police Shooting

BK0108103291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 1 (AFP)—Authorities imposed a curfew on the town of Diktel, 280 kilometres (170 miles) east of Kathmandu Wednesday after police fired on a crowd, killing one person, the Home Ministry said Thursday.

A Home Ministry official said that "a large unruly crowd" had moved on the office of the Chief District Officer (CDO) and the police could not turn them away.

They were forced to open fire after stones were thrown, injuring five policemen, the official said.

The dead man was named as Manoj Joshi, a student and son of a junior government employee, who had participated with other students in the demonstration by striking civil servants.

The situation was reported tense despite the curfew in the main market of Diktel and around the offices of the CDO and the deputy superintendent of police, who had refused to hand over Joshi's body, a Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) source said.

The Home Ministry official said the government had sent parliamentarians of both the ruling Nepali Congress and the opposition NCP (UML) along with a superintendent of police to pacify the people and maintain law and order.

Minister for Home Affairs Sher Bahadur Deupa questioned in parliament the reason for the disturbances at a time when officials were ready to hold talks with the striking civil servants.

Protests over pay and allowances have led to more than 1,200 civil servants being detained, more than 600 suspended and 60 dismissed, according to the Nepal Civil Servants' Organisation.

The union is refusing to negotiate until they are released or reinstated.

Pakistan

Minister Rejects Extradition of BCCI Chief

BK0108005291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1710 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Karachi, July 31 (AFP)—The chief minister of Pakistan's southern Sindh province Wednesday ruled out the possibility of extraditing Agha Hassan Abedi to the United States or elsewhere following his indictment by the federal American attorney in New York.

Addressing a news conference here, Jam Sadiq Ali praised Mr. Abedi, the Pakistani founder of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) for his pioneering role in developing the Third World bank amid stiff competition but said that "being an honourable man he would however, in order to vindicate himself, stand before any court in his own country."

He said "no request for extradition has been made so far but this could be next step."

On Monday, Mr. Abedi and another Pakistani, Swaleh Naqvi, the BCCI's chief operating officer until October 1990, were indicted on charges of creating a multi-billion-dollar scheme to defraud depositors, falsifying bank records to hide money laundering, and larcenies surpassing 30 million dollars.

Sources close to the banker here said Mr. Abedi was considering consulting legal experts to counter the charges.

The Sindh chief minister, an old friend of Mr. Abedi, said the BCCI Science Foundation was aimed at helping the Moslem world gain scientific and technological independence.

Mr. Ali said Mr. Abedi was instrumental in arranging credits and financing for many projects in Pakistan and other Moslem countries at a time when Western nations and their financial institutions were either attaching harsh conditions to such assistance or had refused to do anything.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the State (Central) Bank of Pakistan (SBP) here said the indictment against BCCI in the United States would not affect the current negotations between SBP and the Bank of Credit and Commerce Emirates to acquire branches in Pakistan.

These negotiations are in advanced stage, with British-based auditors evaluating BCCI accounts before a final decision is taken.

Officials Express Concern Over Kashmir Situation

BK3107153591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have expressed deep concern over deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir and stressed the need for a peaceful solution of the dispute, on the basis of the relevant UN resolution and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The concern was expressed during talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Secretary General of Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki in Islamabad on 29 July. They also exchanged views on regional situation and matters of mutual interest.

Oil, Metallurgy, Economic Cooperation Discussed

BK3107054691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed on a five-point formula for cooperation in the petroleum sector. This was stated at the meeting between Pakistan's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan and his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i. Both sides also reviewed the pace of implementation of the issues, which were identified in the memorandam of understanding, signed by the two countries on 16 May. The two countries expressed satisfaction over the pace of work on the setting up of a Pak-Iran oil refinery project. They also reviewed the possibility of providing Iranian gas to Pakistan to meet the energy needs of Pakistan. They decided that the experts of a Pakistan-Iran joint team will make the initial review. Both sides also decided to assist and cooperate with each other in the exploration of oil and gas. It was also decided at the meeting that Iran would provide furnace oil to Pakistan on a long term basis.

Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan also met with Iran's minister for mines and metals and exchanged views with him on the development of mineral resources in Pakistan. He also proposed cooperation between the two countries in this field as well, which eluded attention in the past.

Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Sartaj Aziz met with Iranian Minister for Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari in Tehran and apprised him of the policies and priorities of the government of Pakistan on industries, investments, agriculture, and electrification of rural areas. Sartaj Aziz expressed the hope that the existing cooperation between the two countries in various sectors will further improve. The Iranian minister appreciated the existing cordial relations between the two fraternal countries and stressed the need for increasing bilateral and regional cooperation under the purview of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Opposition Supports New Elections Demand

BK3107005291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1714 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, July 30 (AFP)—Opposition leader and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Tuesday the entire opposition wants fresh elections in Pakistan.

The Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA), which she heads, and all other opposition groups want new polls to rid the country of the "present crisis," she told reporters here.

The present government is "thoroughly incapable and incompetent and it has no right to continue," Ms. Bhutto, who was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan a year ago for alleged mismanagement and corruption, said.

PDA workers plan to hold anti-government rallies throughout the country on August 4, to be highlighted by a 12-hour hunger strike in front of the parliament in Islamabad by Ms. Bhutto and other main opposition figures.

The opposition stepped up its campaign after the parliament gave Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif extraordinary powers for three years to set up special courts to punish sensational crimes in the country.

Speculation that a national unity government could emerge has not died down despite the recent massive support of Mr. Sharif in parliament over the Special Powers Bill.

Supporters of Mr. Sharif, including the powerful ethnic group the Mohajir Qaumi Movement in Sindh Province, have dubbed the demand for a change of government and fresh elections a "cry of the defeated politicians."

Former caretaker Premier Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, an ally of Mr. Sharif, is often named in press reports as a likely head if a change occurs.

His appearance at a get-together hosted by anti-Sharif veteran politician, Zwabzada Nasrullah, where Ms. Bhutto was also present, added fuel to the speculation, observers said.

Minister Returns From Visit to Tehran

BK0108042491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Pakistan and Iran will double their annual trade turnover, which currently stands at $226 million. An agreement to this effect was signed by the two countries at the sixth joint ministerial meeting in Tehran. It provides for close economic cooperation, especially in energy, transport and communications sectors. This was stated by Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, while talking to newsmen in Karachi yesterday on his return home after attending the ministerial meeting. He said that a permanent fund of $100 million has been established to provide loans, with the two countries having a $50 million share each. Arrangements in this regard will be worked out by the central banks of the two countries.

The items identified for export to Iran include cotton yarn, polyester textiles, spare parts for textile machinery, power looms, sewing machines and rice. The items that may be imported from Iran include urea fertilizers, brass ores, copper, lead, zinc concentrate, and medicines.

The federal minister said that Pakistan will provide technical assistance to Iran in maintenance and expansion of railway lines and production of telephone sets and instruments. He said that the existing cultural ties between the two countries were also reviewed at the meeting and it was agreed in principle that the new agencies of the two countries should exchange their news reports.

The federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, who attended the joint ministerial meeting, said that an agreement has been reached on the timetable for various stages of construction of a proposed Iranian-aided oil refinery in Karachi. Referring to Pakistan-Iran cooperation in oil and minerals exploration, he said that the Oil And Gas Development Corporation and the Iranian national oil company will exchange seismic and geological information. The minister said that Iran also agreed to meet Pakistan's requirement for furnace oil, despite Iran's own difficulties.

Sri Lanka

Troops Advance Toward Elephant Pass Camp

BK3107120091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1135 GMT 31 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 31 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Operation Balawegaya task force has broken the back of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist resistance and is expected to reach the beleagured Elephant Pass security forces camp within the next 48 hours. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that government troops were now reported two kilometres from the camp

where 800 soldiers have staged a heroic 21 day defence against the LTTE. The sources said the area around the camp's outer perimeter was within range of the guns of the advancing troops who were now in position to take on the LTTE from the rear if the terrorists tried to attack the camp. The Balawegaya troops were also reported to be able to see the camp's telecommunications mast and are now in direct radio contact with it. Latest reports from the battlefront state the terrorists were backing down and were clearly losing the will to fight. Terrorists after offering initial resistance were retreating as ground troops backed by air support regrouped and resumed advancing today. The reports stated troops were presently engaged in overrunning another enemy position. The terrain that now lies between the advancing troops and the Elephant Pass camp is open ground pocked with scrub jungle. The sources said the armoured columns of the task force were doing some classic penetrating manouvres outflanking and encircling and destroying the terrorists. The Elephant Pass security camp straddles the southern tip of the Jaffna peninsula.

Prime Minister, Iraqi Envoy Discuss Trade

JN3107152291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, personal envoy of leader President Saddam Husayn and minister of state for foreign affairs, has relayed a message from his excellency the president to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, on bilateral ties and the current regional state of affairs. The message was conveyed when Sri Lankan Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge received Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in Colombo today.

During the meeting, the personal envoy of the leader president explained the regional situation in the aftermath of the 30-state aggression against Iraq and the United States' insistence on maintaining the economic blockade on Iraq, despite the fact that it accepted and implemented UN Security Council resolutions. The talks also dealt with bilateral ties and means of developing them, particularly in trade and economic areas, to enhance the ties of friendship between the two countries' governments and people.

For his part, the Sri Lankan prime minister expressed the wishes of the Sri Lankan president and people for continued good health for leader President Saddam Husayn and progress for the Iraqi people. He also stated that Sri Lanka was very interested in consolidating and enhancing bilateral ties.

The personal envoy of the leader president held talks yesterday with John Amaratunga, Sri Lankan minister of state for foreign affairs, on the ties of friendship and cooperation binding the two countries, the prospects for future bilateral cooperation, and the resumption of economic and trade ties.

It is worth noting that Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in the Sri Lankan capital yesterday morning as part of a current tour of Asian states.